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The Spectator

February 14, 2003

President declares all dorms, campus buildings smoke-free

New policy will be implemented for the 2003-2004 school year

by Alexandra C. Sear '05
MANAGING EDITOR

Beginning with the 2003-2004 academic year, Hamilton's smoking policy will be significantly more strict. President Tobin announced the new policy this past Tuesday, February 11, in an email sent to all students.

According to the email, "smoking will not be permitted in any campus facility or entranceway, with the exception of The Little Pub."

Smoking is already banned in public places such as the dining halls, Beinecke, and the Library, and the change will primarily affect current regulations that allow smoking in certain residence halls. This semester, there are six smoke-free residence halls (Babbitt, Bundy West, Eells, Minor, North, and South), and two floors of Dunham. Next semester, no residence halls will allow smoking in student rooms. As President Tobin wrote, "This policy applies to all student residences, including all rooms, lounges and public spaces."

Students who smoke will have to do so outside, and must observe the current regulations that require a 10-foot distance from any non-smoking building. President Tobin asked that people who "choose to smoke outdoors... do so in a way that is considerate of others." The email noted that "Physical Plant will be providing outdoor receptacles in appropriate areas."

In the email, President Tobin noted that the unhealthy effects of second-hand smoke was one thing that prompted the change. He also expressed concern over residence hall safety, highlighted by "last month's couch fire in Major Residence Hall, which sent three Campus Safety officers to the hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation."

The announcement, though unexpected by much of the campus, has been in the planning stages for the past semester. Director of Residential Life Jeff Landry stated that "There had been several conversations this year about smoke free housing. The decision... came from President Tobin and the Senior Officers although I believe the conversations within Residential Life and the Division of Student Life contributed to the final decision."

Other colleges and universities have implemented similar policies. Dorms at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor will also be smoke-free starting in Fall 2003. Last October, Bowdoin College in Brunswick,

*see **Smoke-free**, page 2*

PHOTO BY DAN BLEEKER '06

Bring on the snow!

Although the record-setting snowfall cancelled classes on Wednesday afternoon, it hasn't stopped students from enjoying FebFest, Hamilton's week-long Winter Carnival.
See story, page 2

ATX violates social probation; receives additional sanctions

by Kathleen M. McGrory '05
NEWS EDITOR

An InterSociety Council Judicial Committee hearing last month found the Alpha Theta Chi sorority to be in violation of their social probation from last spring. As a result, the Dean of Students Office has mandated that the society not initiate new members this semester.

"Any sanctions Alpha Theta Chi receives will be followed exactly," said Rachel Geringer-Dunn '04, President of the InterSociety Council and a sister of ATX. "Other sisters and I are naturally disappointed that we are not able to have a pledge class this spring; however we are committed to the future of our society and our current sisters first and foremost. We greatly respect the Hamilton community and the administration, and regret any rulings or judgments that may have indicated otherwise."

ATX was put on social probation for the 2002-2003 school year after a number of members were found guilty of violating the hazing policy by the Judicial Board in May, 2002.

"This fall, we handed over the Campus Safety Investigation to the [ISC] Judicial Committee," said Dean of Students Flossie Mitchell. "I accepted their recommendation, and placed ATX on social probation for the remainder of the year." Provisions of this probation included that the society would hold no events with alcohol for one year. In addition, the Administration asked that the group sponsor an educational program for the campus to address hazing, and revise its pledge program.

However at the end of the Fall 2002 semester, the society was found to have violated this probation.

"On December 6, 2002, there was an ATX gathering

*see **ATX**, page 4*

Campus leaders unite for "Skin Deep" retreat

by Bill Chenevert '05
NEWS EDITOR

Last Saturday, February 8, about thirty Hamilton students traveled to the White Eagle Conference Center to discuss campus issues, particularly leadership, sexism, racism, and issues of identity. Students were selected from twenty-four campus organizations by Dean of Multicultural Affairs Marc David to attend the overnight conference. Two Colgate faculty members facilitated the retreat.

The phrase "Skin Deep" comes from a documentary that gathered a completely random cross-section of forty students. They were asked questions about racism and identity. After some time, the participants opened up which resulted in a tense separation into the various groups with which they identified themselves.

The retreat's aims were to open up the line of communication between different organizations on campus, to encourage cooperation, and to establish a network of support on campus.

There were no speakers or movies, but there was a lot of discussion in small groups. Laura Crandall '04, who represented the Womyn's Center, was worried

*see **Skin Deep**, page 4*

Roma's driver causes Jitney accident

by Ian Mandel '06
I&I EDITOR

On Sunday, February 2 at 1:48 a.m., one of the new twelve-passenger Hamilton College Jitneys was struck by an oncoming vehicle at the bottom of College Hill Road. The Jitney was headed east when a 1993 red Mercury traveling west veered over the double yellow line, striking the Jitney in the left front fender and tire, according to Patricia Ingalls, Director of Campus Safety.

PHOTO BY NATHALY FRANCOIS '04

A Jitney was struck by an oncoming vehicle on February 2.

"Kirkland Police was on the scene and they issued three tickets to the driver and the passenger of the Mercury," Ingalls stated.

Three people were riding in the Jitney at the time of the accident in addition to the driver, two of whom were students visiting from another college. The driver of the Mercury was Amy Alguire, a delivery driver for Roma's Pizzeria, located at 21 McBride Avenue in Clinton. Ms. Alguire could not be reached for comment. There were no injuries reported as a result of the accident.

The drivers' insurance company inspected the damaged van and estimated the repair costs at approximately $2500, according to Terry Hawkridge, Assistant Director of Physical Plant.

Hawkridge explained that the Jitney was struck "in the front left corner, just in front of the driver side door." He added, "They flattened the tire, bent the rim of the tire, so the tire went down, and they [the Jitney] also have a key dent where the front fender and the left door come together on the frame."

Hawkridge expects the damaged van to be out of commission for another two weeks while repairs are being made. A new van is expected to be on campus to temporarily take its

*see **Accident**, page 4*

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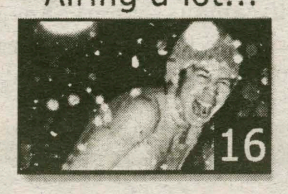
Airing a lot...



Let's Dance...

Women are hot...

Four feet of snow? No problem!

Hamilton sculpts, tastes and races through the mid-winter gloom during this week's 4th annual FebFest

by Kat Lexa '05
COPY EDITOR

For some reason, no one can stop talking about the weather. It's awful, it's horrible, it's cold, and it's snowy. But there is one reason Hamilton students are excited about the vast amounts of white powder on the ground: FebFest.

Last year, people were forced to scramble around for enough snow to build snow sculptures. This year, Hamilton has enough snow to build an entire ice castle like the one featured in *Die Another Day*.

According to Liz Ransom '04, a core commander of FebFest, "The campus has been very responsive to FebFest , which is exciting. We have a lot of campus organizations helping with events as a way to increase cooperation and communication between student groups. The whole idea behind FebFest is to have time to relax, have fun and enjoy the winter weather with the entire Hamilton College Community."

FebFest is one of the few things that can draw hibernating Techies out of their unheated rooms into the still colder Northeastern winds. A time-honored tradition, FebFest is a week-long celebration of the wonders of snow.

According to the FebFest Committee's flyer, "Hamilton's first annual Winter Carnival was held in 1938. Events in past Winter Carnivals included: hockey and basketball games, fraternity dance parties, jazz concerts, ice sculptures, figure skating exhibitions and a final formal dance to top off the whole weekend." Past committees were able to entice such musical greats as Duke Ellington to help warm up the frigid nights on the Hill.

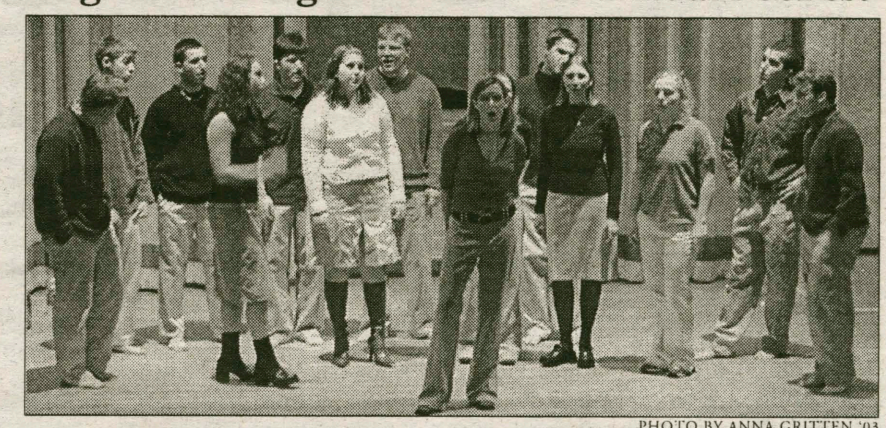


PHOTO BY ANNA GRITTEN '03

The Hamiltones perform during Tuesday's *a cappella* concert. Tuesday's events also included wine and chocolate tasting.

This year, the FebFest organizers have planned for an entirely different style of music to draw the crowds. The first ever Rock Your Indie Heart Music Festival will take place Saturday night in the Annex. The concert is free with a FebFest button, and promises to be one of the biggest events of the year. Co-sponsored by WHCL and IMF, the event will be an excellent introduction into a variety of music that can't be found on Kiss FM or your roommate's stereo.

The ongoing tastings in the Pub have also been a big hit with students and faculty alike. Monday and Wednesday afternoon featured a beer tasting for those over 21 and tapas (little Spanish appetizers) upstairs for all ages. Tuesday and Thursday, those of age could sample wines from all over the world, while chocolates upstairs drew crowds of ravenous students.

Tuesday night, the class of 2003 sponsored a skate night in Sage Rink. According to Ransom, "Three hundred people attended and everyone raved about it." For people unwilling to endure the cold, even with free hot drinks and cookies, FebFest also threw a pizza war in the Hub, and local pizzerias competed for the title of best pizza. Grande's, the newcomer in Clinton, beat out Tony's, Roma's and the Spaghetti Kettle.

Friday night is the big night of FebFest. The evening gets kicked off with Powderpuff Football sponsored by the class of 2005. At 7pm, the famous "Vagina Monologues" commences in the Events barn; special highlights include the community monologues at the end written by members of the Hamilton campus. Then, at 9p.m., the sky will explode with fireworks over Minor Field. After freezing outside for an hour (according to weather.com temperatures will drop below zero) students can head over to the Annex and watch the fabulous Pietasters with John Brown's Body.

Saturday is another big day for FebFesters. The Ski and Snowboard Guild is hosting a day trip to Song Mountain. Says Ransom, "Hamilton will be tak-

*see **FebFest**, page 4*

Four fraternities issued permanent space in Bristol

by Stephanie Valle '05
NEWS WRITER

Four fraternities that were promised permanent office and meeting space on campus will now have space reserved in the basement of Bristol for that purpose.

After the Residential Life Decision of 1995 that eliminated fraternity houses on campus, four fraternities had a provision in their contracts that entitled them to office, storage and meeting space. However, according to Lisa Magnarelli, Director of Student Activities, the space has not existed until now.

"Each fraternity will have an office," she said, "and share a large meeting space." This space will cause some current offices in the basement of Bristol to be relocated. Magnarelli said that the Hamilton Humane Society will be relocated to the basement of Kirkland and the Asian Cultural Society and the International Students' Association will both be relocated to the Afro-Latin Cultural Center.

Additionally, Student Assembly, which currently holds its meetings in Bristol, will be moved to ELS. Magnarelli said that new conference tables will be installed in the lounge of ELS, which she said will further "claim" ELS as student space.

Lauren Dentone, President of Student Assembly, said that this plan suits Student Assembly needs as well. "Since we are being moved to ELS, which is a bigger space, that will help us. We have too many members now for the basement," she said.

Magnarelli said that plans have been in the works for the new space since the end of last year, after representatives from the fraternities on campus as well as alumni requested that the college honor the contracts it had signed. The fraternities that will be receiving the space are Psi Upsilon, Alpha Delta Phi, Chi Psi and Delta Kappa Epsilon.

"The benefit is having a set place to meet that will accommodate every member of the society," said Magnarelli. Currently, fraternities are using rooms on the upper floors of Bristol, which are too small to accommodate everyone.

At this point, fraternities that did not have the provision in their contract and sororities that never had residential space will not be given permanent meeting space. However, Magnarelli said that that is something she would like to explore.

"I hope that is something we look at - it will be a priority for me," she said, noting that as part of the Campus Life Initiative this year, the college is looking at student activity space.

Magnarelli also expressed hope that the fraternities would continue to let certain groups like the HAVOC sponsored tutoring program continue to use the space.

Email announcement of smoke-free policy raises controversey

*from **Smoke-free**, page 1*

Maine, banned smoking in all residence halls, and there is a bill in Kentucky currently being proposed that would ban smoking in all college and university dorms in the state.

A number of students responded to the new policy through all-student emails. Student reactions to the policy were mixed.

In an all-student email, Michael Engert '03 wrote that "the new policy is a step in the right direction," and cited the harmful effects of cigarette smoking on both smokers and non-smokers, as well as fire safety.

Timothy Collett '03 agreed in another email, highlighting the potentially fatal effects of smoking and the right that non-smokers have to live in a smoke-free environment.

Caroline Walsh '05 expressed the feelings of many non-smokers on campus. "I think it's good. I feel like we're the only school that doesn't already have a policy like this. It was time for it to happen."

Others were not in favor of the decision, and were especially concerned about the lack of student input in the new policy. In an all-campus email Spencer Soloway '06 wrote that "the new policy is unfair, short-sighted, and not reasonable for a community of adults."

The flurry of emails prompted Student Assembly Vice President Pete Holzaepfel '05 to send an email stating "Like many of you, Lauren [Dentone '04, Student Assembly President] and I, as well as other assembly members, were caught off guard by the recent administrative decision to make all residence halls smoke-free next year. We are very interested and encouraged by the student emails that have surfaced regarding this issue. On behalf of the assembly we would like to provide a more effective forum to discuss this issue."

Beth Wade '04, Resident Advisor in Keehn, is "definitely not" in favor of the new policy. "It takes away the fact that our rooms are our rooms... it infringes on the rights of students to make choices. There are ways to help without making it all or nothing," she said.

On the issue of second hand smoke, she believes RAs are the ones who should be responsible for their floor. "On my hall, there is someone who is allergic to smoke [as well as people who smoke], and we have worked out a situation so that everyone is comfortable," she stated. "It's not right to ignore the 15-20% of the campus who smoke just because they are in the minority."

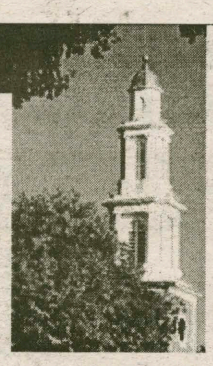
When asked how hard it will be to implement the policy, Wade noted that "a lot of students will do what they will, especially ones that feel it's infringing on their personal space and freedom." Bottom line, "the campus community should have been addressed before this was decided. The policy needs to be reconsidered."

Landry also addressed the issue of implementing the plan. "I am sure we will have some challenges; you always do with a new policy," he said, but added that "conversations with other students on the floor or with the residence hall staff" will still be the best ways to deal with smoking violations.

Carin Plante, Area Coordinator for Residential Life, believes the new policy is needed. "Residential Hall Council polls the students every Spring. Last year over 80% of the respondents wanted more smoke-free areas and restrictions."

Landry agrees, echoing Tobin's reasons for the decision, namely the effects of second hand smoke and the fire safety issue. "Residential Life has received a lot of requests for smoke-free living; this policy will certainly address those concerns... I believe [the new policy] will greatly improve the quality of living on campus," Landry said.

IVORY TOWERS



THE NEWS AT COLLEGES ACROSS THE LAND

Compiled by Alexandra Sear '05

Government Investigates Online Sale of Fake Diplomas

(U-WIRE) SAN DIEGO — A diploma with a degree verification service is easy to purchase on the Internet, according to an investigation by the U.S. General Accounting Office. The downside — it's fake.

Sen. Susan Collins requested the report from the GAO because she was concerned about how easy it was to get a diploma on the Internet and wanted to know what people were doing with the degrees, GAO Senior Special Agent Robyn Stewart said.

The GAO went undercover as Susan M. Collins and bought a bachelor of science degree in biology and master's of science degree in medical technology from the nonexistent Lexington University. The "premium package," which also came with honors distinctions and a telephone verification service, cost $1,515. Before giving the degree, the company asked Collins to provide references who could verify she had experience in biology and medical technology, but it never actually called the references. The degrees, along with transcripts, arrived in about three days, Stewart said.

The report said the owner of Degrees-R-Us was a disbarred lawyer living in Las Vegas who began the business two years ago, after watching a television expose on another diploma mill.

Stewart said they targeted Degrees-R-Us for investigation because, unlike many degree mills, it is based in the United States, which makes the possible prosecution of the company easier.

Nebraska Governor: Pay Collegiate Football Players

(U-WIRE) UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — The Nebraska unicameral state legislature has many times in the past become a forum for the debate on paying major college athletes. The comments made by governor Mike Johanns Wednesday indicate that this might be the year the state forces the issue to be recognized and debated around the country.

Johanns came out in support of a legislative proposal made by state senator Ernie Chambers that would specifically require football players at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to be paid a stipend and be treated as university employees. The bill flies directly in the face of NCAA bylaws, which prohibit players from being compensated for their play beyond a scholarship during their collegiate years.

"Paying the players would be above board and straightforward," Johanns told The Associated Press. "College football has become a multimillion-dollar industry that should do much better for its athletes."

The bill was proposed on Jan. 22, and is currently being debated by the Business and Labor Committee. The bill stipulates that it would not go into law until three other states, which contain universities that are members of the Big 12 conference pass the bill.

UConn Rolls Syracuse

(U-WIRE) HARTFORD, Conn. — Syracuse forward April Jean stood underneath her team's basket and expressed sheer frustration. After committing her third foul with eight minutes left in the first half, Jean slapped the floor and looked toward the bench.

It would be Jean's last action of the half, as Syracuse went to its reserves. In the Orangewomen's 75-51 loss to No. 1 Connecticut Wednesday night at the Hartford Civic Center, they played as many as four reserves at a time and still proved no match for the Huskies' depth.

"You can't be frustrated," Syracuse head coach Marianna Freeman said. "No matter what game you play, there are going to be days when you are in foul trouble. People have to step in for you, and they produce or they don't."

The most surprising appearance was Maja Omanovic. The backup center has played two minutes in the past nine games but replaced Jean in the first half with Syracuse down 13 points.

WORLD NEWS

Compiled by Alexandra Sear '05

Man With Grenade Nabbed at London Airport

LONDON (AP) — Authorities arrested a man with a grenade in his luggage Thursday at London's Gatwick airport and detained two men outside Heathrow airport as the capital remained on a high alert against terrorism.

The two airports are the focus of a huge security operation in London, set in motion earlier this week in response to a threat that Prime Minister Tony Blair has refused to detail.

The Guardian newspaper reported that the alert was sparked by "high-quality" intelligence that Islamic extremists had smuggled SAM-7 anti-aircraft missiles into Britain from Europe. Police refused to comment on the report, which said the intelligence was the most specific information about an imminent threat since the Sept. 11 attacks.

Gatwick's North Terminal was closed for hours and the terminal's flights were suspended after police found the grenade in the baggage of a 37-year-old Venezuelan after he arrived on a British Airways flight from Caracas, Venezuela.

At Heathrow, police said two men were arrested in nearby Hounslow as a precautionary measure and were not believed to be linked to the threat to the airport. They were being held at a police station in west London but police did not say why they were detained.

European Crisis Over Iraq Spreads to EU

LONDON (AP) — Europe's diplomatic crisis over Iraq spread Thursday as wrangling in NATO spilled into the European Union with a move to exclude pro-U.S. candidate nations from an emergency summit.

Germany signaled it was looking for a solution to the rift in NATO over a U.S. request for aid in case of a war with Iraq, but France was refusing to budge on the eve of a critical U.N. Security Council session.

Britain is preparing a resolution in the Security Council to sanction military action against Iraq if a report by U.N. weapons inspectors on Friday says Baghdad is not cooperating on disarming.

In an unexpected move Thursday, 13 nations seeking to join the EU were excluded from a summit in Brussels on Monday to seek a common position on Iraq. The move came from Germany and France because the candidates mostly back the United States on Iraq, according to British diplomatic sources.

Britain and some other EU members had wanted to admit the mostly eastern European nations. EU leaders fear the Iraq crisis could rip apart the 15-nation union's hopes of formulating a joint foreign policy.

After three days of bitter clashes, NATO canceled a meeting Thursday in Brussels on a U.S. request to begin planning military aid for Turkey if there is war with Iraq. Turkey is the only NATO member to border Iraq.

'Human Shields' Gathering in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — American and European peace activists wrapped their arms around posts on a bridge over the Tigris River on Thursday, symbolizing their intent to act as human shields in any U.S. war on Iraq.

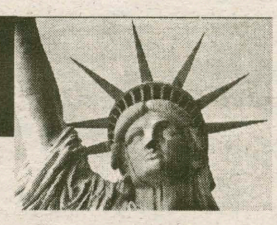
The 14 activists, mostly from Italy, were one of the first groups here using the "shield" title, which suggests they might place their bodies at potential targets to deter bombing. But they acknowledged their mission was only a gesture meant to try to deter an invasion to topple Saddam Hussein.

"I have no intention of being a martyr," Canadian Roberta Taman said. "I'm here because I believe that the world wants peace and that we can achieve peace."

The campaigners, organized as the Iraq Peace Team, have been draping banners over public facilities in Baghdad this week - an electricity station, a water treatment plant and, on Thursday, the Martyrs Bridge over the Tigris. "Bombing This Site Is A War Crime," the banners read.

Dozens of other "human shields" - Europeans and Americans - obtained visas at the Iraqi Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, on Tuesday and were also headed for Iraq, riding in double-decker buses.

NATIONAL NEWS



Compiled by Alexandra Sear '05

Bush Urges U.N. to Confront Iraq, Saddam

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the eve of a showdown over Iraq, President Bush said Thursday the United Nations must help him confront Saddam Hussein or "fade into history as an ineffective, irrelevant, debating society."

As Bush issued his call for unity, the administration said Americans should be prepared for "a fairly long-term commitment" in Iraq if the United States goes to war.

Secretary of State Colin Powell told the House Budget Committee he had no estimate of the cost of war with Iraq. But he did say he thought Iraq should be able to adjust quickly afterward - in contrast to the slow pace of recovery in Afghanistan.

"I would hope that it would be a short conflict and that it would be directed at the leadership, not the society," he said. Iraq has an effective bureaucracy, rich oil resources and a developed middle class, the secretary of state said.

The flurry of events laid the groundwork for Friday, when U.N. weapons inspectors are to report to the Security Council on whether Iraq is complying with orders to disarm. Bush is expected to quickly follow up with a request for a U.N. resolution authorizing force.

However, the top U.N. nuclear weapons inspector said Thursday that inspections should continue.

"We're still in midcourse, but we are moving forward, and I see no reason for us to bring the inspection process to a halt," Mohamed ElBaradei said in an interview with The Associated Press as he drafted his report on a flight from Vienna, Austria, to New York.

House Approves Stricter Welfare Rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House approved a Republican welfare reform bill Thursday that would require more single mothers to work and provide hundreds of millions of dollars to promote marriage.

Nearly identical to a plan put forth by President Bush, the GOP legislation passed by a 230-192 vote, largely along party lines. It would renew a 1996 welfare overhaul that allowed states to impose tough new rules and helped spark a massive reduction in welfare rolls.

Members of both parties declared the 1996 overhaul a success, even as they differed sharply on what steps are needed to further help the poorest Americans.

The bill puts strict limits on the amount of time most welfare recipients can spend in education and training programs, requires states to put more of its welfare recipients to work and requires that each person work more hours.

It limits people to five years of benefits over their lifetimes and continues to ban legal immigrants from aid programs. It provides $16.5 billion a year for states to run their programs and offers a modest increase in child care spending.

Investgators: Shuttle Skin Breached

WASHINGTON (AP) — The space shuttle Columbia almost certainly suffered a devastating breach allowing superheated air inside the left wing and possibly the wheel compartment during its fiery descent through Earth's atmosphere, investigators said Thursday.

In its first significant determination, the accident investigation board announced that heat damage from a missing tile would not be sufficient to cause unusual temperature increases detected inside Columbia minutes before it disintegrated. Sensors detected an unusual heat buildup of about 30 degrees inside the wheel well before the accident.

The board determined those increases were caused by the presence inside Columbia of plasma, or superheated air, with a temperature of roughly 2,000 degrees. It said investigators were studying where a breach might have occurred to allow plasma to seep inside the wheel compartment or elsewhere in Columbia's left wing.

The announcement focused renewed attention on possible catastrophic failures inside the wheel compartment that may have attributed to the Feb. 1 breakup that killed seven astronauts.

Skin Deep retreat breaks down Hamilton stereotypes

*from **Skin Deep**, page 1*

that "people wouldn't want to open up in an uncomfortable setting, but it wasn't weird at all and we opened up to each other."

One of the first activities the participants did was to write down on a piece of paper: their gender, sex, sexuality, race, and religion. They then rated those factors based on their personal importance.

Another activity was something called "Crossing the Line," where students were asked to step across a line if they identified with a characteristic or could answer yes to certain questions. For instance, someone would shout out "Hispanic" and anyone who identified themselves as Hispanic would cross the line.

Another activity included separating people up into groups based on one identity, such as African-American, Hispanic, Non-Christian, Non-Heterosexual, or White. They were then instructed to answer some questions based on the group that they chose. Some of the questions were: "What are the stereotypes that people have against your group?" "What do you want people to know about your group?" and "What would you never want someone to say about your group?". As Marc David put it, "It forced people to look and listen to see what kind of stereotypes there are on this campus. Sometimes we spend so much time talking that we forget to listen."

Marc David suggested the Skin Deep retreat when he was interviewed for his current position in July. He was hearing students voice concerns about matters of identity, racism, and sexism on campus. Dean David's process of choosing the limited number of participants was based on three categories: organizations with a record of cooperation with other campus groups, organizations that had a commitment to diversifying the campus, and finally who was able to spend the necessary time away from campus. A main objective of the retreat was to foster relationships between organizations and to promote cooperation in their endeavors and campus events.

Some of the organizations who sent representatives were the Hamilton College Democrats, Atheists, Agnostics, Free Thinkers, La Vanguardia, HAVOC, Finesse, Black Student Union, Asian Cultural Society, the Counseling Center, and Residential Life. Ben Schuster '03 explained \the consensus of the retreat was that "the Student Assembly needs to reassess their funding practices." He also commented "the thing that struck me the most is the diverse group of students that are motivated to make changes. Hopefully the students and administrators will help make those changes happen."

Like the InterSociety Council retreat two weekends ago, the Skin Deep retreat also aimed to encourage leadership within organizations. One activity asked the participants to come up with an action strategy for accomplishing changes within themselves, their groups, and at Hamilton in one month, six months, and two years.

When asked how she wanted to see Hamilton change, Carin Plante, Area Coordinator and representative for Residential Life, explained, "One thing we could use is some leadership training, with more things like Skin Deep and the Greek retreat. We have to get students comfortable with the idea of organizing and encouraging participation in groups."

Additionally, Carin Plante was happy to see the students receive this training well and in good spirit. "It was really nice to see the students leave optimistic and with refreshed attitudes ready to go make changes on campus," she said.

FebFest celebrates snowy days, heats up cold nights

*from **FebFest**, page 2*

ing over the mountain. At only $20 for a lift ticket and transportation, it's a great deal and the guild hopes to have at least 100 people attending." For the people left behind, the day will be filled with Snoccer, snowman building, a "no-holds-barred" sled race, and the fabulous 10th Annual Chili Cook-Off in the Little Pub. And of course, Saturday night is the Rock Your Indie Music Heart Festival.

So put on your warmest jacket and enjoy the festivities. This year's FebFest has more than enough snow for everyone to play around in. And for those with a phobia of getting the chills, there are plenty of indoor activities to warm up the frigid February nights.

ATX to use upcoming year to positively impact campus

*from **ATX**, page 1*

where both rushes and alcohol were present," described Mitchell. "This office [the Office of the Dean of Students] received information that this illegal rush function involving alcohol was to take place. We tried to contact [President of ATX] Mary Peters, but we were unable to get in touch with her."

As a result, Senior Associate Dean of Students Nancy Thompson and Director of Campus Safety Patricia Ingalls went to the private room in which the gathering was being held. According to Mitchell, Thompson and Ingalls "simply went to the room and knocked on the door. They were let in."

The event was later deemed a rush function by the Judicial Committee of the InterSociety Council. Article 9, Section 4 of the ISC bylaws defines a rush function as "an event at which only members and prospective members are present in a designated location."

Although the society was not in violation of their probation by holding a rush function, Campus Safety Reports and witnesses stated that alcohol was consumed by both current and prospective members. The Judicial Committee therefore found Alpha Theta Chi in violation of Article 9, Section 3 of the ISC bylaws that states "rush functions will not involve alcohol in any capacity."

"In the past, it would have been a situation where they were suspended, but suspensions have not been wholly effective. Instead, we are levying a number of sanctions intended to address the issues at hand," said Mitchell.

As a result of the Judicial Committee hearing, ATX is not allowed to have a pledge class or initiate new members for the rest of the year.

"They are to cease all rush efforts, and in addition, seek a faculty advisor," said Mitchell.

In addition, the Office of the Dean of Students plans on sending a letter to parents that "covers hazing," and notes which fraternities and sororities are currently recognized by the College.

"My intent is to send a communication to parents that identifies the groups that are recognized by the College," said Mitchell. "Included in that information will be notation that ATX is not allowed to take new members this year."

Mitchell plans to describe the "complete picture of Greek life on the Hill," rather than single out the ATX sorority.

"It will mention that action will be taken if activity is going on underground. If an individual ignores the fact that a group isn't recognized, he or she could face serious individual sanctions," Mitchell said.

Despite the potential setbacks, however, the sisters of Alpha Theta Chi are ready to use this time to focus on positive issues.

"Alpha Theta Chi is already using this time, while other societies are initiating new members, to come together within our society. We are also working more closely with other societies to plan campus-wide events, and to expand our philanthropy activities and fundraising even more considerably," said Geringer-Dunn.

"ATX will be more than ready to meet a new class of girls through the rush process next year, with the permission of the administration, and we have plenty to do until that time comes," she stated.

ATX Vice-President Elizabeth Dolan '05 added, "The sanctions will grant Alpha Theta Chi the opportunity to focus on our founding mission and our reason for existence: each other. Although we are deeply disappointed that we will not be welcoming new members this spring into a society which we wholeheartedly support, we acknowledge our mistakes and are prepared to face the consequences."

Dolan also noted that other societies oncampus have been supportive throughout the hearing. "We are incredibly optimistic of our situation as well as the future of Greek life on this campus," she said. "It is truly comforting to know that we as a Greek community can forge ahead to make societies a positive attribute of Hamilton."

"I'm sure many people share some degree of sympathy for ATX with its recent sanctions," said President of Psi Upsilon Rob Gifis. "Whenever a society loses a pledge class there is going to be a gap there that cannot be filled. In a few years ATX will not have a senior class, and that potential void in leadership is something that could have been overlooked.

"However, hopefully in the near future this will all pass, and the positive things that societies do for this campus, like philanthropy, will be seen in a brighter light than the negative things that people insist harping on presently," Gifis added.

President of Kappa Sigma Alpha Emily Backman '04 also echoed Dolan's comments. "I know that ATX will continue to make strides on this campus despite the decision that was made," she said.

Accident causes confusion over weekend Jitney service

*from **Accident**, page 1*

place by the end of this week.

"Jitney service won't be interrupted... from this accident," Hawkridge stated.

In the days following the accident, there was confusion on campus as to how Jitney service would be affected.

On Wednesday, February 5, at 10:48 p.m., an all-campus email was sent from jitney@hamilton.edu stating that "There will only be one Jitney running this weekend. Our other van was hit by the Roma's guy." The email was signed "Padre."

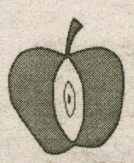
Yet, contrary to the email, Hawkridge claims that there was a second van on campus scheduled to be used as a second Jitney for the weekend and that "Padre" was aware of this.

"There was a vehicle ready for it and scheduled. The schedule was up here, it was posted, [Campus] Safety had it, student activities had it, I had it in my house," Hawkridge said.

"It was some communications problem with the staff running this Jitney which is why the Jitney didn't run last weekend," he concluded.

up and coming:
THE KIRKLAND PROJECT
for the study of gender, society and culture

February, 14th
BROWN BAG SERIES
"THE LOVE LIFE OF ST. ANTHONY."
Mark A. Masterson,
visiting assistant professor of classics
location: Schambach 108
time: 12:00 PM; cookies served.



February, 20th
MASCULINITIES FILM SERIES
MA VIE EN ROSE
discussion facilitated by
Minnie Bruce Pratt, Women's Studies
location: Kirner-Johnson 109, Red Pit
time: 7:30 PM
Refreshments Provided.
Co-sponsored by the French Club.

Editorial

The Spectator

The Spectator

President Tobin's ban on smoking in campus buildings is a formal college policy setting forth what should be expected behavior from all good community members. It is not an assault on individual rights, as some students have cried out. The smoking ban tells students and faculty that their own detrimental recreation must take place in a way that absolutely minimizes risk to other students and faculty. The policy is one of safety, sound administrative judgment, and good use of presidential authority. For those students now raising vocal opposition to the policy and those students who feel that their input should have been asked for before a policy was implemented, the larger issues of public safety mute any concerns about smoking rights.

Fire safety is an obvious concern to any administrator housing nearly two thousand students. The remote risk of fire-by-cigarette seems much greater if multiplied by a factor representing the number of lives in Dunham, Milbank, Bundy, or South. One life lost to fire would be tragic; dozens, incomprehensible. Preempting such a catastrophe is good foresight. Landlords can have non-smoking clauses in their lease agreements, and for Hamilton not to would be irresponsible.

Smoking indoors puts non-smokers at risk of lung-cancer, exacerbates asthma, and can create a host of other health problems. While non-smokers living near smokers might only ingest a small amount of smoke, it is not fair to non-smokers, who have made a healthy life decision, to have to breathe in smoky air. in relation to alcohol consumption policies and laws, our new smoking policy appears to come as a logical extension. Consuming alcohol does not in and of itself directly affect those living nearby; teetotalers are not forced to drink a portion of the alcohol consumed by those around them, but as soon as alcohol consumption affects people other than the consumer (e.g. when the consumer is behind the wheel or disturbing the peace), heavy restrictions are placed on consumption.

Tobin's move and manner in curtailing smoking should not have come as a surprise. Those students, especially smokers, who claim to have been blindsided by an administrative decision that would extinguish public smoking without consulting the desires of the smoking public might take note of a law signed into effect by an obscure politician: a ban on smoking in all public places by Mayor Bloomberg of New York City. The New York law is entirely motivated by public health concerns; it disregards the wants of smokers entirely and nearly ignores the economic concerns of bar and restaurant owners. The Hamilton policy, like the New York law, is a top-down approach tosecuring safety and health for students. No realistic "community committee on public smoking" could have reached a serious proposal different from what we now have. We owe thanks to President Tobin for the latest policy. In establishing a better smoking policy, his action has saved us both time and life.

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Celebrating our 103rd year in print

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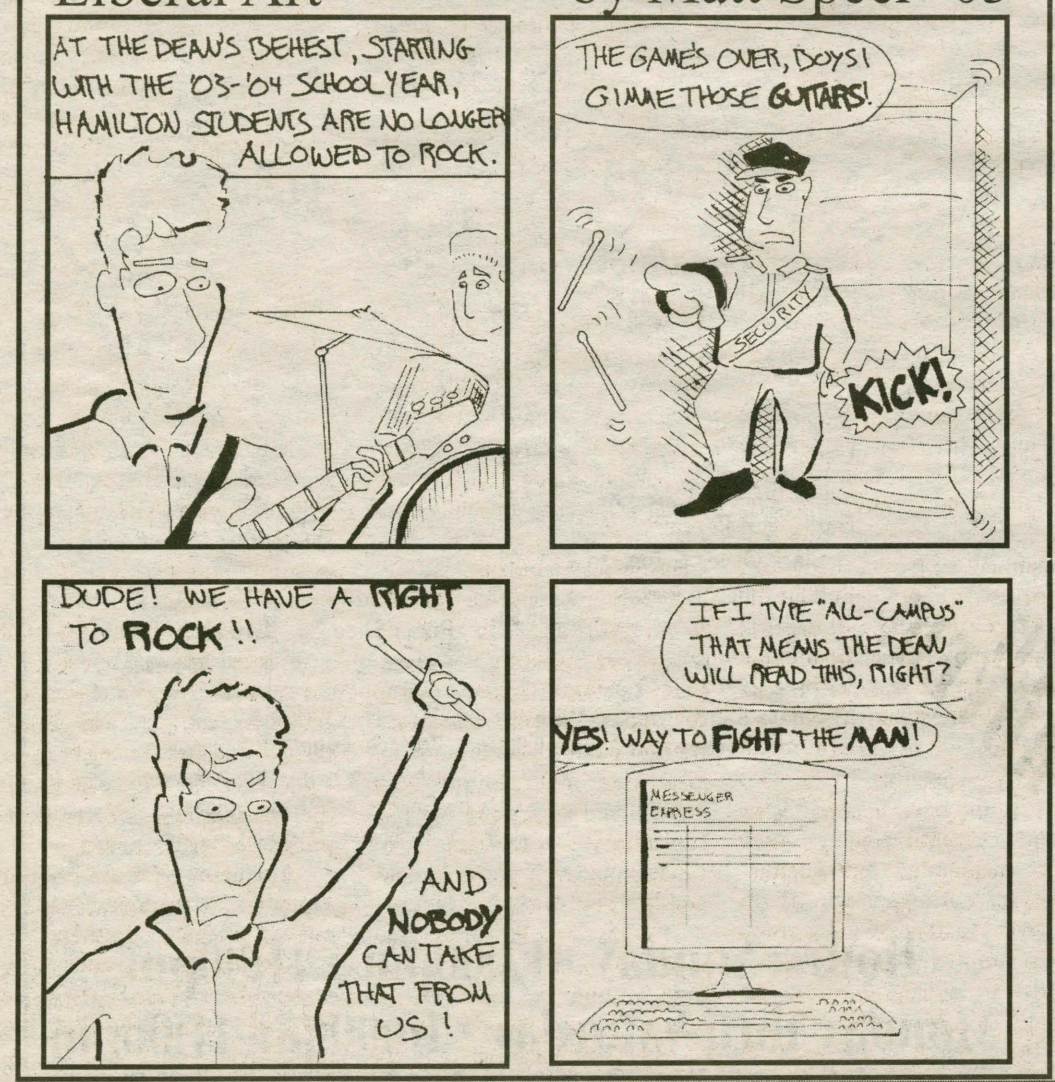
"It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye..."
Play it Safe
That's what your parents told you when you were a kid. Shouldn't you tell your children?
Each year thousands of children suffer unnecessary sports related eye injuries — bruised eyes, scraped or torn corneas, detached retinas and eye hemorrhaging.
Vision Council of America, a nonprofit trade association representing the optical industry, wants parents to know that wearing protective eyewear can prevent or lessen the severity of most eye injuries.
Talk to your eyecare professional about protecting your child's eyes
VCA
www.visionsite.org

Liberal Art by Matt Speer '03


AT THE DEAN'S BEHEST, STARTING WITH THE '03-'04 SCHOOL YEAR, HAMILTON STUDENTS ARE NO LONGER ALLOWED TO ROCK.
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Advertisements

Dear Hamilton Community,

Every year we celebrate our students, faculty, administration and staff by coming together to discuss the issues we face on campus by taking part in The Adler Conference. This year's Conference entitled:

Hamilton's Future: A New World Order

will be held on Friday, February 21, 2003 from 12:00pm to 6:00pm.

We all observe issues from different perspectives but we don't often get the chance to share our viewpoints. The Adler Conference offers us the opportunity to communicate our thoughts to the entire Hamilton community and to tell everyone what we see as important avenues for change and growth, especially in such changing times... Make your voice heard!

Be a part of the process and sign up by responding to adler@hamilton.edu, include your ID number.
The topics discussed are as follows:

Gender issues	***Diversity***	***Greek Life***
Faculty-Student Relations	What counts as diversity?	Greeks v. independents
Out of touch faculty/staff	Diversifying courses	Faculty v. Greeks
Out of touch students	Diversifying faculty and staff	Greek privilege/discrimination
Apathy/respect/resentment	Affirmative action	Diversity in Greek life
Gender/class/race		

Lunch and Registration will begin at 12:00pm. Discussions will begin at 1:00pm.Dinner will start at 5:00pm

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Monday thru Saturday • 10:00am–11:00pm

Insights & Ideas

Can history repeat itself?

BILL CHENEVERT '05
NEWS EDITOR

Last semester this didn't really happen so much: I was taking three English classes that didn't apply to each other at all (Journalism, 1800s Literature, and Poetry). My American Society class did have some connections to Public Affairs Journalism, but this semester I am seeing an uncanny amount of relevance between all of my courses. I guess this is one of those 'Celebrating the Uniqueness of a Liberal Arts Education' articles, so if you're not interested, revert back to Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down.

Alright, so first off I'm taking History 254: Recent American History with Maggi Morehouse. Recent means post WWII, which means the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Korean War, Vietnam, etc. etc. Recently, we watched a clip of a U.N. presentation outlining the threat that the Soviet Union was at the beginning of the Cold War, and it remarkably resembled that of Colin Powell's recent report on Iraq. At the beginning of WWII, the U.S. was strongly isolationist and sought no part in meddling in foreign affairs. Once we realized, however, that we had emerged from the War as the most powerfully successful nation in the world, the tables turned, and we soon became the world's protector of democracy. It now seems that this is the role Bush intends to play in the Middle East. Yes, we are powerful, yes, we are relatively economically sound, but no, alternative forms of government and commerce do not warrant our intervention for the sake of human rights.

Recent American History has offered me a double whammy in this cross-applicability department. Being concerned with the 40s and 50s, we've read about the emerging definition of adolescence, mass media through the explosion of the television, and Americans' reactions to rock and roll. This provided me with a wealth of background material for the reading of Jack Kerouac's *On The Road*, the Beat-generation bible depicting cross-country journeys of a new America. Professor Isserman has followed up the reading of the *Lewis & Clark Journals* with Kerouac's oddly similar story of exploring America in our Introduction to American Studies class. I had my doubts about how Lewis and Clark's exploration of the Missouri River in 1805 would connect to *On The Road*, but, sure enough, Kerouac appears as a new brand of explorers.

My purpose in describing my classes to you like the dork that I am is that a very interesting idea popped into my head in thinking about these 1950s Beat writers. These guys were bold thinkers who created their own way of life by rejecting any kind of traditional life pattern. And so, what I was thinking is, I would like to do that. I would give up my Hamilton diploma to drive all around the country with one or two of my friends, to think and act in the opposite way that current 20 year-olds do, and to think and act in a way that current adults and parents would frown upon (this, of course, would not fly with my parents, but go with me here). However, is that possible? In this day and age, 2003, is it possible to do something out of the ordinary and shock people without, say, killing people or having a lot of sex?

What I mean by that is that television and the Internet have taken away the shock value of just about everything. It's funny to think that Kerouac, Neal Cassady, Allen Ginsberg, and William Burroughs were outrageous by enjoying brief sexual encounters with women, dressing in jeans, listening to loud rock music, and doing a fair share of drugs. This is what a very large proportion of college-aged men do all year, every year. So what would it mean for our generation to do something equally unique and original? If a generation of Beat-like writers and thinkers emerged, what would they value? I have no idea. But if you think you have the answer, a car, and maybe some relatives in California, I just might want to give it a try.

Like Nicorette, but mandatory

TIM MUDIE '05
INSIGHTS & IDEAS WRITER

Well, I figured I might as well chip in with what 90 percent of *The Spectator* will probably be about this week: Febfest's Chili Cook-off. Hahaha. Man, I'm funny. No, it's the smoke-free thing. But Milli VaChili is going to dominate the chili cook-off.

So, I don't think I need to remind anyone of the smoke-free campus decision announced by President Tobin this Tuesday, but just in case you were still in a weekend-enduced coma (it happens), the campus is going to be smoke-free starting next year. That's right, no smoking in any buildings except the pub. Why is this, you may ask? Well, there are a few reasons, mainly the dangers of smoking, secondhand smoke and fire risk. Are these legitimate concerns? You bet! Am I going to make fun of them anyway? I think you know me well enough by now.

Smoking IS a fire risk. When things are on fire, it is a fire risk. Sometimes I even amaze myself. But getting rid of cigarettes WOULD lower fire risk, I'm sure. Although, frankly, if you accidentally light your room on fire, smoking may not be your biggest problem. I have a feeling that there are people who will figure out ways to light their rooms ablaze without ever smoking a cigarette in their life. It's just this hunch I have. Oh, and because of the fire hazard, there will now no longer be electricity in any dorms. It's a sacrifice we have to make.

So, secondhand smoke is bad for you. Yeah, it sure is. Which is why there are non-smoking dorms. But what if you have friends who live in smoking dorms? Well, if they're your friends, you'd think that one could say, "Hey, friend, could you not smoke while I'm around? Thank you, friend!" Now was that so hard? Smoking already isn't allowed in any common areas, so as long as people avoid rooms of smokers while people are smoking, no secondhand smoke! This is pretty basic, people. If you don't want secondhand smoke, stay away from firsthand smoke. You're welcome.

If secondhand smoke is bad for you, firsthand smoke must be even worse! Gasp! I never knew! Thank you, Hamilton, thank you so very much. This is the one reason for the smoke-free decision that, in my opinion, has caused so much controversy. Yes, smoking is bad for you. Yes, it would be better if fewer Hamilton students, and people in general, smoked. But that decision should be up to each individual person. Taking smoking away from dorms puts it outside. When I was a kid, I remember seeing this anti-smoking commercial where a teenager is standing outside in jeans and a tee-shirt smoking a cigarette during a blizzard. Now, I don't care how anti-smoking you are, if you have a heart, you can't possibly WANT to see that. But that's what we will see. Essentially, the college is giving smokers a choice: quit or freeze. No one should have to make that choice. Why? Because this is a free freaking country and people should be allowed to make their own decisions. Everyone knows that smoking is bad for you. So is the Diner. Next year, will we be getting celery and peanut butter instead of fingers and fries? If so, will they still cost five dollars? Of course, TV will no longer be allowed next year either because everyone knows that it rots your brain. Right? All I'm saying is let people choose. Yes, it's a dirty, disgusting habit, but so is masturbation. And as far as I know, this is still allowed in dorm rooms (although, thankfully, not in the Pub).

Frankly, I just think that people should be allowed to make their own decisions. People are informed. Anyone who watches TV knows all sorts of facts about the dangers of cigarettes. If you don't want secondhand smoke, don't go near people who are smoking. Will this limit you? Sure, kind of like you're limiting smokers by not letting them smoke inside. People will smoke. People will smoke inside. People will, at some points, face situations in which secondhand smoke is unavoidable. You can make cigarettes illegal and this will not change. That's just the way it is.

Some people see a glass of water as half-empty while others seethe same glass as half-full. We here at Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down believe that on Valentine's Day every glass should be half-full. While spending the day with your better half (whether it be an actual person or Agginization), we would hate to potentially ruin your day with an offensive, albeit catchy one-liner. So therefore we present the Valentine's Day Feel Good Edition of Thumbs Up.

THUMBS UP

-Relieving the residual blue balls caused by Monday's unsatisfactory Joe Millionnaire with a weekend of Valentine fornications

-FebFest: It's Febulous!!

-The cheapest Valentine's Day date out there: Agginazation

-Skoal Man replacing Joe Camel as Hamilton's only legal dorm room, tobacco-pushing mascot

-The Crew Team: another year, another supErg workout

-The U.S. Armed Forces

-The Emperor Penguin...far superior to the lowly puffin

-This week's fresh Green Apple...providing a nutritious alternative to The Spectator

-Sunday's 90-minute, 300th episode celebration of The Simpsons

- The first snow day in 20 years...when the cat's away the mice will play, eh Dean Paris?

-Four weeks, no parties....its too cold to walk to Bundy anyway

Chris Preston '03 & Paul P. Jones '03

-Carnation funds enabling ATXers to buy the clothes they did not get back during their "clothing drive"

-The Diner Dick Guy and the Commons Zamboni Guy discovering that true love was just one dining hall away

-Wednesday's day off....the most fun we've had in the snow since TDX's last party

- The constantly malfunctioning treadmills teaching us the fine art of walking in place

-Okay, they've earned it--Quatar

What Ham-Tech does right

BRITTEN CHASE '05
INSIGHTS & IDEAS WRITER

Wait. What?

Things might not be the heaven on earth that we were promised when we decided to attend Hamilton? It's been pointed out that the food... well... sucks, the dorms...well...suck, and now we can't even smoke. Damn, damn, damn.

As Dale Carnegie said, "Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain and most fools do."

We go to one of the most expensive colleges in the history of the universe. You would think that would get me my own personal dogsled to get me to the field house. Or at least a moving walkway to the light side.

But don't you think that we're selling our hilltop haven a little short? What exactly do you expect?

First off, it should be pointed out that we go to college to prepare for life. So you live in North, eat Bon Appetite, bench in the fitness center with a bent bar, walk back and forth across campus without serious injury. Some people do a combination or all of the above. And if you do that without obtaining a psychological disease or an odd rash, well then, friends, you are prepared for anything life could smack you upside the head with.

But it is only fair that we get our money's worth. I too often wonder where my money goes, what it's going for, why I'm here when there are cheaper, better, warmer places to be.

Hell, we get a lot for our money.

For starters, we get a well rounded liberal arts degree (which, as we all know, will be so useful when we graduate, right?). We get hookups with jobs at wonderful wonderful places like...well...ok, I don't want to work for Goldman Sachs ever even if it was the last job on earth. But I can find other cool places because my resume will say "Hamilton." "Hamilton" always draws people in because they have never heard of it.

So Ham-Tech is not perfect. So it's had some bad ideas. Such as North Lot, random sculptures, the new cereal bins in McEwen, the prices in the bookstore, Utica, and lake-effect snow. It's done some good stuff too. Like...

Frosted Cookie Day in Commons: I have not seen this since my first semester freshman year, but it was a magical, wonderful snack time. If they bring it back, then I say extend Bon Appetite's contract. That's how good it was.

Computers in Beinecke: Now, not only do I not have to go to the Library, I don't have to go to KJ either. Genius.

New Smoking Policy: It's not that I blame smokers for all the evil on this campus, because I don't. Maybe I should. I like the new smoking policy. I can't ever understand why people smoke. If you're stressed, don't be a wuss, go for a run. You'll feel better. But yeah, smoking is my pet peeve; that, and people who stick their gum in the ashtray of my car. It's there for cigarettes.

One more thing on the smoking: It was pointed out in the all-campus-lose-your-email smoking debate that we have a better chance of getting cancer by being exposed to the sun. To that I say, Don't worry, sportsfans, you forget that we live in upstate New York, which is so cloudy it's been declared a National Cloud Area. The federal government is looking into getting us relief funding because folks are looking so pale that they're blending in with the snow. Which is dangerous.

Other good things about Hamilton: McEwen Swing. After reading away messages, then eating dinner for an hour, then stopping to talk with every single person you've met since birth, it's a great procrastination tool.

Those couches in the Library: Yeah, we pay 37K a year to go here, but you can't put a price on a good nap.

Valentine's Day: another commercialized holiday

IAN MANDEL '06
INSIGHTS & IDEAS EDITOR

Today, millions of people across the nation are celebrating the most superficial of all holidays: Valentine's Day. It is a day on which the lonely are reminded just how pathetic they are and on which those of us lucky enough to be dating are burdened with yet another gift to buy. It is a holiday that in its idealistic form celebrates love and romance; however, it has, like most other holidays, been perverted into a commercial juggernaut. A hopeless romantic will go all out, splurging on chocolates, flowers, jewelry, and of course, dinner. February 14th ends up being one of the most expensive days of the year, and for what? Do we do this to reaffirm our love for that special someone? Last time I checked, merely saying "I love you" could achieve this perfectly, and without have to drop a few notes in the process.

And Valentines Day is only one example of how our love of special occasions is being exploited by marketers. In December, stores are filled with items meant to help celebrate Christmas and Chanukah. From Chanukah Gelt (chocolate coins for the non-Jews out there), to wreathes, to tree ornaments, manufacturers and retailers stock the shelves of our stores with items that have nothing to do with the essence of our holidays. In November, stores stock up with Thanksgiving decorations and food, all-the-while taking the opportunity to hold "special sales." October and Halloween are a salesman's dream, with costumes, candy, decorations, and the like bringing in millions of dollars. In July, we purchase sparklers and fireworks to celebrate our nation's birthday. The list of exploited holidays goes on and on...

On top of this, our culture has turned our holidays into something that they're not. Don't be surprised when young children tell you that their two favorite holidays are Christmas and their birthdays. These are the two times of year when they are showered with presents, for no apparent reason. This attitude is the result of society turning holidays into profit-making events. People should celebrate a holiday, especially a religious holiday, for the purpose for which it exists. But instead we have commercialized every holiday imaginable. If our stores aren't selling us trinkets and decorations, then our television networks are airing parades aimed at boosting their ratings. Holidays that were established to signify a certain event or idea have been turned into nothing more than pawns of industry, and in the conversion process their meaning has been lost to us.

That brings us back to today, Valentine's Day, a holiday so blatantly commercial that we don't even bother hiding it. So enjoy your rich chocolates, your beautiful flowers, your plush Teddy-bears, your flashy jewelry, and your romantic candle-light dinners. But try to remember what we've done to our holidays, what we've allowed to happen right before our eyes. And as you celebrate the holiday of "love and romance," try not to think about the real reason we're celebrating: to pad the pockets of business.

"To the Editor..."

TOM KEANE '03
INSIGHTS & IDEAS WRITER

Every job comes with responsibilities with which no one wants to deal, but the editor-in-chief of a newspaper has one of the more unpleasant ones: printing letters to the editor. True, there is always the possibility that the letter will commend some meritorious action on the part of the paper, or highlight a positive event in the community served by the paper, but letters to the editor seem to be overwhelmingly negative. This is particularly true in our own school paper. Last week saw complaints about other campus publications, concern over our membership in the Mohawk Valley College Consortium, an appeal to alumni to cease contributions to the College, and an alumnus berating his own fraternity. The situation has gotten so hectic that almost a quarter of last week's letters page was devoted to an explanation of the letters policy.

Our editor, Chris Takacs, does a pretty-damn-good job for a volunteer at a school known for its writers, not its journalism program. It's about time that Hamilton stopped sending him junk mail and realized that no one really cares enough to read your opinions. After all, that's why we have the all-campus e-mail system. I propose that we start taking some risks with our letters to the editor. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, how about a love letter:

To The Editor:
You are the reason I learned to read. Your work caresses my intellect like no other periodical can. No one understands margins and typesetting like you do. Every article in The Spectator is like a five star meal: every title a menu, every byline a salad, every paragraph an entrée, every piece of punctuation a creamy dessert. I struggle to find even the most inconsequential of grammatical errors. Your dedication is an inspiration to us all; your late nights are not in vain. When I am away from Hamilton, I long for the sweet scent of your ink.

Love,
Tom

Any senior planning not to live with his or her parents next year knows the ring of the cover letter all too well:

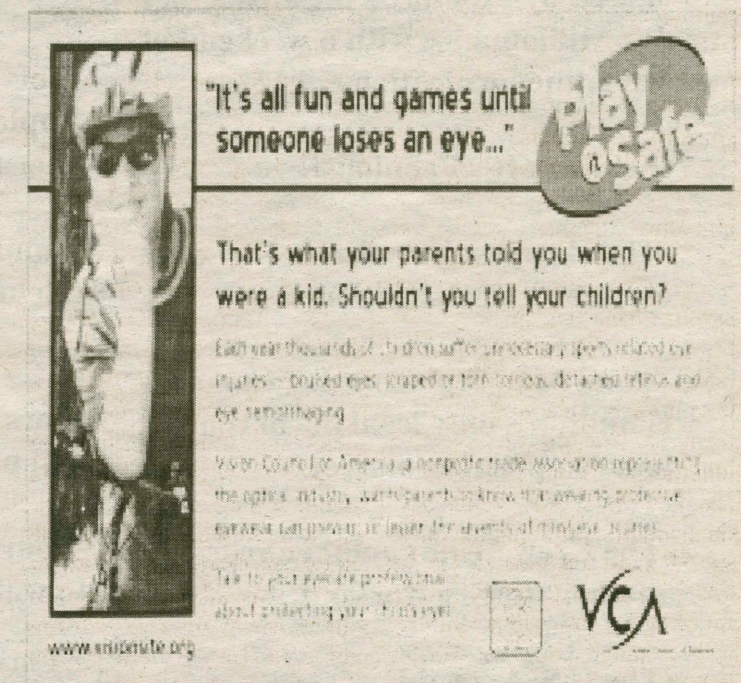
To The Editor:
I am writing to express my interest in a position as a reader of The Spectator. This employment opportunity was brought to my attention through a search of the library's periodical rack. Reading The Spectator seemed exciting to me because it has many words and pictures. I know that my education at Hamilton College will serve me well, as I have had many opportunities to read other newspapers and magazines. I will contact you early next week to arrange a time when we can speak about this position.

Sincerely,
Tom

Finally, what series of letters would be complete without a letter of resignation?

To The Editor:
It is with great regret that I write to inform you of my intention to cease functions as the author of this article. While this article first seemed like a good idea when I started it, it proved to be more of a burden than a delight to author. Additionally, the article was not as funny as I anticipated, and it shows no promise of getting me chicks. I am sad to leave your fine organization, but I am comforted by the fact that my writing will no longer impede my Thursday evening drinking schedule.

Very Truly Yours,
Tom


"It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye..."
That's what your parents told you when you were a kid. Shouldn't you tell your children?
VCA

Skin Deep: *something we should all experience*

JON KUHL '06
INSIGHTS & IDEAS EDITOR

A few weeks age I received an email from Assistant Dean of Students Marc David asking me to attend the upcoming Skin Deep Conference on multicultural affairs on behalf of the Hamilton College Democrats. Figuring that, if nothing else, it would be a new experience, I decided to attend. After committing myself to the event, however, I began to have second thoughts. Going would entail giving up a weekend on the Hill, hanging out with a bunch of strangers for two days, and sitting through hours of mindless inspirational banter. I mean, what actually gets accomplished at retreats anyway?

I maintained this attitude as I arrived at the White Eagle Resort for the program. Picture a small complex of little cabins and conference rooms straight out of the 1950's- it was a little disconcerting. The weekend started with breakfast at 9 a.m. (did I mention that I had to wake up at 7am?), which consisted of a bagel and a little cereal- nothing to write home about.

After the quick breakfast, the close to 30 of us gathered in a large room with office chairs arranged in a large circle. The two program facilitators introduced themselves; one was a Colgate education professor and the other worked for the NCAA. The two of them began with an "icebreaker" to get everyone acquainted. This was followed by everyone sharing their hopes and fears for the weekend. So far not too exciting. It took until the next activity for my opinion of the weekend, and my attitude, to change.

The group stood up, still maintaining the circle, and was told that when something was said that describes us, we were to walk into the center of the circle. Categories such as German, Irish, Catholic, Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, Gay, non-heterosexual, and Straight were called out. At first this exercise seemed counterproductive. Weren't these all labels we weren't supposed to be using in the first place?

The activities that followed dove even deeper into what I had previously considered "taboo territory." The group facilitators wrote some of the different categories we'd been discussing on the white board, and asked us to form into groups based on the category with which we most identified.

Boring as it might be, I chose the White group. We were then asked to respond to several questions as a group, such as "What do you want others to know about your group?" or "What would you never like done to your group ever again?". The responses and subsequent discussions based on this activity were truly a first for me. It was so refreshing and educational to hear honest conversation about racial issues straight from the groups themselves.

As a member of the White group I said that I always subconsciously feel the need to explain myself when encountering a member of a different racial group, almost like I have to prove that I'm not racist. It was quite a cathartic experience.

A student in the Black group said that they prefer to be referred to as "Black," and not as African American. The reasoning behind this is simple: many black people in the U.S. aren't from Africa at all. This individual also explained that being called Black doesn't have a negative connotation. It makes sense when you think about it; people who are white don't walk around calling each other English-Americans. Not all Whites are from England, and not all Blacks are from Africa. It's a simple concept, but one I never grasped before.

Another conference participant from the Non-heterosexual group explained that as a bi-sexual, she hated to be asked questions like: "When are you going to make up your mind?" and " to be told oh, you'll figure it out eventually." The individual explained that her mind was already made up.

Walking towards the bus as we began to leave for the weekend, I kept thinking how lucky I was. Over the weekend I met a great group of interesting peers, people that I probably wouldn't have met if I hadn't gone. They weren't the stereotypical Hamilton students we're all acquainted with. I also left wanting to share my experience with the hope that others would want to experience something similar. We're only on this earth for a short time, so we shouldn't waste a minute stuck inside our own little, isolated worlds. Get to know your peers, go to meetings you normally wouldn't, and get involved. You've only got one life to live.

Being Jason Wellen

CHRIS PRESTON '03
SENIOR EDITOR

The names Ezra Pound, Guy Hebert, and Dr. Brigitte Boisselier, for better or worse, are forever etched in Hamilton lore. Through their respective talents (or just sheer zaniness), these alums of our beloved institution have achieved legendary status on the Hill. All three excelled in very different areas of expertise-- poetry, professional hockey, and insanity, respectively yet all three are bound by the same snow-covered, top-twenty liberal arts college. This is not about them, however. Today, I write to you, ladies and gentlemen of Hamilton College, with the purpose of suggesting that we promote another name to the status of campus legend: Jason Charles Wellen.

Though perhaps not a household name as of yet, Mr. Wellen embodies all three characteristics that made the three aforementioned names famous. He exhibits the artistic brilliance of Pound ("Like, that's for me to know,/ And for you to find out!" is a phrase he once so eloquently coined). He possesses the athleticism of Hebert though not a hockey player, Mr. Wellen has the distinction of being the only sub-70 mile per hour closer in collegiate baseball history, in addition to his multiple no-hitters in the famed Coup de Wiffle Ball. And most importantly, he has Boisselier-like insanity that makes him capable of bizarre, spur-of-the-moment ideas that are far more inexplicable than the promotion of cloning.

To truly understand this beautiful mind, however, we must start from the beginning. Mr. Wellen was born on December 4, 1980, in the small town of Huntington, New York, a peaceful suburb where he lived the first seven years of his life. In 1987 Mr. Wellen moved with his family to Princeton, New Jersey, for a short year-and-a-half stint, at which point he settled down at his true home: Philadelphia. Like most young Philadelphia boys, Mr. Wellen was a sports fanatic. Being in a noted pro sports town, he quickly became a devout follower of professional football, major league baseball, and NHL hockey. Of course, his passion was not channeled toward the local Eagles, Phillies, or Flyers, but instead toward Pennsylvania's other professional sports teams: the Steelers, the Pirates, and the Penguins. Already, Mr. Wellen's family and friends knew he was special.

Mr. Wellen attended high school at The Hill School in nearby Potstown (not Potsdam). It was here where he honed his social and athletic skills. Not only was Mr. Wellen the school's playboy, having engaged in fornications with the entire cheerleading squad alone, but he was also a three-sport athlete. Mr. Wellen was starting quarterback on the football team, played "like five positions" in basketball, and held a glossy 4-1 record as a southpaw starter in baseball. Hill students still whisper about the school-record 20 assist performance he put forth in a game against perennial high school powerhouse Oak Hill Academy.

Not everything was peaches and cream for the young Wellen, though. Despite vehement protest on his part, Mr. Wellen's family packed up and moved North of the Border to Toronto prior to his senior year at Hill. The boy was devastated. At some point during his senior year, one of Mr. Wellen's peers made the wise-crack, "Hey, at least my parents aren't Canucks, eh?" Something in young Jason's mind snapped, as he came back with the first thing that came to mind, "Oh yeah? Well, like, Jerome Bettis is one of the top ten running backs of all time, okay!!!!" Whether in awe of the pure ferocity of his statement or just plain confused, Mr. Wellen's friends backed off in horror. From that day forward, Mr. Wellen was seen by his friends in a different light.

It was not until he attended Hamilton College that that the new Jason Wellen began to truly take flight. Sporting multiple earrings and a frosted-tip hairstyle, Jason Wellen entered Ham Tech determined to become its latest bad boy. In his years as an underclassman, Mr. Wellen oversaw several projects, including a highly scientific, highly expensive hamster experiment, as well as a carefully planned light redecoration initiative outside Eells Dorm. Still, despite his various brilliant contributions, Mr. Wellen was but a blip on the Hamilton social radar screen. He was starting to realize that it was going to require more drastic measures to get the campus's undivided attention.

During his junior year, Mr. Wellen did so emphatically. Wellen became a marked man. WalMart, for example, had a bounty on his head thanks to an ugly incident involving a four-dollar necklace and handcuffs (and I'm not referring to any late night, post-Bundy party activities). This instance, along with his multiple speeding tickets, made Mr. Wellen a regular in the Utica slammer. Jason could care less he had finally gained recognition among his peers as Hamilton's bad-ass. This was apparent in every corner of campus. Mr. Wellen was just as easily accepted chugging beers and yelling obscenities at opposing players while taking in a Continental baseball game with members of several fraternities as he was grinding with the ladies in a late-night Carnegie dance party.

This brings us to Jason's senior, er, 2002-2003 year at Hamilton. Now his many talents have come full circle. Mr. Wellen doubles as Best Buy Employee of the Month and Ham Tech's undisputed cigarette czar. Mr. Wellen provides door-to-door service to members of his fan club (which by now includes the entire campus) via a pair of nifty, top-of-the-line roller blades that enable him to be at your doorstep within 30 seconds of placing your delivery, braving four feet of snow or the dewiest of meadows. Not surprisingly, this benevolent endeavor has also whipped Mr. Wellen into tip-top physical shape. But alas, sadly; the sports program Hamilton will be without Mr. Wellen's physical gifts this semester (he was projected to be the baseball team's number one starter by such nationally respected expert analysts as Jason Wellen). Due to frightening bouts with both acid reflux disease and extreme sketchiness, Mr. Wellen was forced to take a semester off to lick his wounds. But please do not fret, because he currently lives in the town of Clinton with his three fish and his guitar (did I mention he was also a talented song-writer?), and, I am proud to say, is the only Utica College student to ever be a member of *The Spectator*.

With a more broad range of experiences than Forest Gump, Jason Wellen deserves our recognition as one of the true Hamilton greats. Whether selling cigarettes, closing the deal for the baseball team, or giving PhotoHunt lessons at the Pub, Mr. Wellen's benevolence has touched us all. So here is my official vote to induct Jason Charles Wellen into the Hamilton Hall of Fame. I urge you to do the same. Or, as the immortal Mr. Wellen himself would say, "Liiiike, you're feelin' it!!"

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

Showing her support on Martin Luther King Day for affirmative action, Senator Hillary Clinton declared:

"[T]here are those who don't understand Dr. King's dream and legacy. Yes, we want to be judged by the content of our character and not the color of our skin. But... [i]f we don't take race as part of our character, then we are kidding ourselves."

Thus, Clinton regards race-- something over which none of us had any choice-- as equal to one's actions and ideas, the true ontent of one's character.

The Ku Klux operates on the same premise; like Clinton, they equate a man's "blood" wwith his character.

Still, Clinton tells us that we don't understand. Who's kidding who here; where's the outrage?

Chalk up Clinton's quote as yet another example of how the multicultural left, under the pretense of combating racism, actually champions racism's basis and destroys its only antidote, individualism.

Jonathan Rick '05

Dear Editor & Adam Gordon:

I would like to start off addressing the opening sentence of your article "$37,000 for what?" You personally do not foot the $37,000 bill to come to Hamilton. Your parents, who I'm sure work hard at what they do, pay most if not all of your bills to come to Hamilton. So, unless you are one of the proud few who bear that burden or a bold Citizen Kane, you have little right to bitch about the money your parents pay.

Question: If you are only advocating a "criticism intended to better the lives of everyone" then why are you bitching and moaning? There are various ways to vastly improve your current situation, and I must remind you that crying does not constiture one viable option.

You are here for one of two reasons. Either you are a go-getter or you are a product of your parents. Since you don't have mom and dad around to give you any sort of direction, that thumb you've been sucking on has found it's way up some other orifice. From reading your article Adam, you sure as hell ain't a go-getter, and I think we may have found where you stand.

So the question is, where do our tuition dollars go? Try $56 million for a new science facility that will give you better educational resources. Or how about a few million dollars for the renovation of Chi Psi? Better yet, let's try the $76 million budget Physical Plant needs to keep each and every building on this campus up and running. The budget includes water, heat, and electricity for over 50 buildings, not to mention their maintenance and daily care. If you really feel like you are being cheated, then write a petition, fund proposal, or formal letter of complaint. Do not waste the space of the Spectator for a personal bitch session that reads worse than the all campus emails.

I recommend that you research prior to writing about an internal, uneducated opinion. Project your energy into a productive, useful outlet. And why not attempt to use the resources Hamilton has to offer like the electronic reserve, a resource funded by "your" tuition dollars? The resources allow for homework assignments and readings to be posted on our own Hamilton Network. No more walking fifteen steps to the library (wimp!) to check out that book on reserve. No more wasting valuable computer paper. Just click, read, cut, paste, and whamo! You've not only saved time and energy, but you've been smart enough not to waste paper! Holy shit, is this common sense or what?

Please don't bitch about the cleaning. I personally lived in North my first year, and although the bathrooms smelled, I was man enough to SUCK IT UP! Besides, tuition dollars are going towards a renovation of North in the next one/two years. Furthermore, you are bitching about a necessary and beneficial service that usually goes unnoticed and largely unrewarded. The janitorial service, a 40 hr work week, 6am-230pm job, is a hard earned, tough job. Now you want them to take time out of their personal lives to come on the weekend and clean up after you because you can't even find the flush? Do you want a personal maid to come in and make your bed? Possilby even tuck you in, read you a bedtime story, and make sure you have your pacifier? If you really are a first year and considered a young adult, are you really 18? Or just a pampered brat? To reiterate, if you have a complaint or problem, contact the proper department.

Lastly, there are too many things wrong, incorrect, or just plain dumb about your article to address in this letter. If you really want money back from this school, I suggest you start applying yourself, and make Hamilton what you want it to be. It obliviously isn't "the good life" like your contradicting statements suggest. When I read your article, I can hear the sweet sounds of the world's smallest violin in my ear. What joy. What rapture.

If Hamilton is so good, then why are you complaining? Could you not come up with a decent topic to write for the Spectator this week? Or is this just one in the continuation of bad articles you continue to write for the Spec? If you are so worthy and understanding, if you really contribute meaningful work for the Spec, then I suggest you begin to write like it. Worth and good writing come from your peers such as Bill Chenevert and Thom Keane. Instead of writing off the cuff and working at a position that will bolster your resume, I suggest you do what your parents' money is going towards: the objective of receiving an education.

Please don't be thoughtful and write a personal statement to me. I appreciate your time that you've already put in reasearching your old and recent articles. I do not need your flattery and kind words. If you have any concerns, comments, or just an old flip of the finger, please contact the operator; dial 0 for information.

Have a great life at Hamilton kiddo~

Jon Paul Bellona '03

Dear Editor,

In Adam Gordon's recent article, $37,000 for what?? I didn't necessarily agree with all his points, but there was one in particular I did: the Light side bathrooms. I live in Kirkland and share what is generally known as a gangbang bathroom with 15 other girls. These bathrooms are a disgrace. Sean, our janitor, does his best, but he simply can't keep up with the level of filth that accumulates. The grout between the tiles is filled with black, disgusting mold in the showers, making it a totally unsanitary matter to lean against the wall for any length of time. The shower curtains don't fit, containing 6 inch gaps no matter how you close it, and are covered in mold as well. There's absolutely no ventilation unless you prop the door open, so when more than one person takes a hot shower, the entire bathroom fills with steam, growing the colony of mold even more. The ceiling, until winter break, was also a perfect environment for mold growth, but the way they fixed this was to paint over it. The showers are dark as well as dank, with one central light that doesn't even get past the curtains once you close them, the shower heads are falling off, and the entire bathroom smells disgusting. If Hamilton were a restaurant, the bathrooms would get closed down for unsanitary conditions that endanger the health of the public.

Something needs to be done about these bathrooms. I don't feel truly clean when I shower in them, and I find it hard to believe that that much mold wouldn't have adverse consequences on our health. I truly hope something is done, before someone gets really sick from just using the bathroom!

Sincerely,
Emily Simons

Dear Editor,

This is in response to Adam Gordon's article "$37,000 for what?" article that appeared in the February 7 edition of the Spectator. Adam, you start your article claiming that "I'm not some stuck-up kid whining about how this school should pamper me like a prince," and then you spend over half a page being exactly that. Let's go through your litany of what should be different...

"I don't understand why the bathrooms can't be cleaned on weekends." Hutch spends 5 days a week scrubbing your toilets - don't you think he should have a couple days off too? You want to do away with meal cards because "we could save money from not having to buy those [card-swiping] machines" but, at the same time, install card-swiping machines on every dorm on campus (because students are apparently freezing to death using the old-fashioned key method). "Maintenance needs to do a better job of plowing and clearing after every snowfall." Are you wearing flip-flops on your way to class? We're living in upstate New York, buy a pair of boots, and take your safety into your own hands. "Photocopies should be free...I was yelled at for printing 100 pages for a class...I'm sorry, but I am going to print anything I damn well please." We already use WAY too much paper on this campus, and maybe it's a good thing that Hamilton students be charged a dime for every copy they make. "The fifth chicken finger is essential!" Go to Commons or McEwen if you want unlimited food. "In Commons...I would like to see Tropicana Orange Juice." Take this up with Bon Appetit. Don't like Bon Appetit? Take that up with the administration. "Give me cash so I can buy my damn food." I can safely say that you will not make any great changes whatsoever with your choice of tone (bratty), choice of words (profanity), or forum (newspaper read primarily by the student body). Don't like the athletic facilities' hours or equipment? At many schools students have to pay extra to use the gym, but at Hamilton we can use anything for free - and the hours have been extended this year. "If I'm going to pay tuition, there is no way [varsity teams] can kick me off the other courts when a practice or game is going on." Actually, they have every power to do so - it's more important that our teams have facilities in which to practice than for you to play pickup basketball.

And that gets me to my central point. You (that is, your parents) are not paying $37,000 a year so you can have every creature comfort in the world and run amuck in the field house whenever you feel like it. You are paying for housing, education, professors, food, a health center, clubs, concerts, parties, varsity and intramural sports, volunteer organizations, programs in foreign countries, and opportunities no one can possibly begin to take advantage of in four years here. Maybe in three years you'll see how many ways Hamilton manages to hold your hand and expand your horizons for $37,000 a year, and maybe you'll appreciate it more then (you could always decide to spend your parents' money elsewhere). You should spend your next three years joining organizations that help coordinate Hamilton student life, or expressing your complaints to the actual sources, rather than trying to elicit sympathy from your fellow "deprived" students. And when so-and-so '09 writes a so-called "insights and ideas" piece that takes up over a half-page in the Spectator, you can remind him that there are positive ways he can enact change at Hamilton, instead of spending time "bitching about things [he] finds wrong with this school." Instead of "expecting this institution [to] do everything in its power to make the quality of [your] life better," take a little responsibility and do everything in your power to make the quality of your (and your peers') experience at Hamilton better.

Sincerely,
Rich Waite '03

Dear Editor,

Last week's article about the potential sale of the Sigma Phi fraternity house was correct, but the headline gave the impression that the sale had been completed. In fact, the agreeement between the college and the fraternity must be approved by the alumni members of Sigma Phi before the closing can take place. That vote will be conducted by mail and will probably take several months to complete.

Sincerely,
Mike Debraggio
Director of Communications

Insights & Ideas
The Spectator

Dear Editor and Mr. Evans,

In the last few months picking up the local papers to check on the status of our fraternity and hearing about the utter ineptitude of our administrators has become a weekly activity. Most of what people write is funny. Harry Potter, little green ducks, and John Belushi are all things we think are funny. So is building a fraternity house in the Village of Clinton. Maybe we could turn one of the Clinton churches or even the old "Great American" Grocery into a fraternity house.

Unfortunately the real issue here generally gets lost amongst all of this wonderful humor. Although our first article was declared unworthy of a playground by some people, we are going to try to explain this issue as succinctly as possible so as not to waste any more of our time.

College kids can be loud, obnoxious and even messy at times. Our youthful exuberance sometimes gets in the way of our judgment and our innocent revelry can become bothersome to the laidback folks from Clinton. This is the issue and it is not fair to the people who live in Clinton.

Unfortunately, certain people like Professor "maybe/possibly" Maurice Isserman who some think whines about the behavior of college kids, and Clinton Courier editor Charles "I wish I was a frat boy" Kershner have decided that the only way to solve this problem is to make people believe that our fraternity is trying to build another "Animal House" next door.

However, the actual issue at hand is legitimate, simple, and does not need to be blown out of proportion to be solved. In fact a number of different measures are currently being taken to try to ameliorate this problem. Our supposedly incompetent and uncaring administrators including, Dean of Students Flossie Mitchell and Director of Student Activities Lisa Magnerelli, actually do have a clue as to what is going on and are working to solve the problem. Social Options on the hill have increased in the last six months leading to more "celebrations" on the hill instead of in the village. In addition the trustees have decided to turn the old Psi U house into a dormitory, further alleviating the perennial housing shortage. (I wonder if that is what Professor Isserman imagines we might build on Marvin Street).

So contrary to what some people may have you believe, our literary society is not running around Clinton terrorizing and pillaging, and our administrators are intelligent and do care about improving town/gown relations. In fact, some of them might actually live in Clinton.

With the real picture in mind, we ask that those people, who are trying to turn town/gown relations into a Hollywood movie, please relax, and come back to reality. Stop wasting our time and the time of Hamilton's concerned alumni, stop circumventing the actual issues that must be dealt with, and instead join those who do care in discussing constructive solutions.

On another note, although we appreciate Mr. Evans's concern for the health of our organization, it upset many of the undergraduates that he felt it necessary to voice his opinion over this issue publicly instead of privately. Alpha Delta Phi has a strong tradition of handling problems between members in a private and civilized manner and we hope that our alumni, no matter how far removed from the hill, continue to respect these ideals.

Love,
David Fox '03
Julian Scurci '03
Alpha Delta Phi

Dear Editor,

As a current student of Hamilton College and campus leader, I feel the obligation to respond to a letter to the editor from a Class of 1966 graduate who asked our Alumni Family to stop giving financial donations to the college. All I can say to this alum is, Where is your Hamilton Pride? Don't knock those who help us down - take a proactive role - whether through volunteering for the College, a financial contribution, or both.

Over the past 4 years I have come to grow a deep affection for Hamilton College. Since freshman year I have learned a great deal, both in and out of the classroom. One of Hamilton's greatest strengths is its vast amount of educational and extra-curricular resources (among other qualities). One of the main reasons I applied to Hamilton and why I am a satisfied student is due in part to the wealth of opportunities Hamilton has to offer.

However, I (like all Hamiltonians past, present and future) would not be able to benefit from the great resources Hamilton has to offer if it were not for the immense generosity and dedication of our Alumni Family and Trustees. Both Alumni and Trustees have Hamilton's best interest at heart and make sacrifices to keep Hamilton moving in the right direction.

The letter by the Class of '66 Alum is nothing more than a crude attempt to use an obvious difficulty of Colleges all across America and exploit it. I contend that Hamilton would love to keep tuition from being raised, but the reality is education has a cost. All across the nation College's must raise tuition in order to keep up with the cost of inflation across the board. However, the Alum who wrote this demeaning letter failed to recognize the kindness of countless Alumni and Trustees who offset tuition hikes with generous financial contributions that creates dozens upon dozens of scholarships. Fundraising for scholarships or capital projects such as our new science building is no east task, but the great staff in the Communications & Development Office do an outstanding job that is at times tedious. Without the new Science building, residence hall renovations or countless other additions to the Hamilton infrastructure, the College would not be in a competitive position to attract the best and brightest America has to offer in terms of students and faculty.

Although I do not attend Hamilton on scholarship, I have taken out substantial loans in order to help pay for my college tuition, but I do not gripe. Instead, I say THANK YOU to the Hamilton Administration, Alumni Family, Friends of the College, and Board of Trustees for providing an education that will help me (as well as all Hamiltonians) succeed upon graduation.

Sincerely,

Maurice I. Michaane
Class of 2003 President

"It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye..."

That's what your parents told you when you were a kid. Shouldn't you tell your children?

Play it Safe

Each year thousands of children suffer unnecessary sports-related eye injuries — bruised eyes, scraped or torn corneas, detached retinas and eye hemorrhaging.

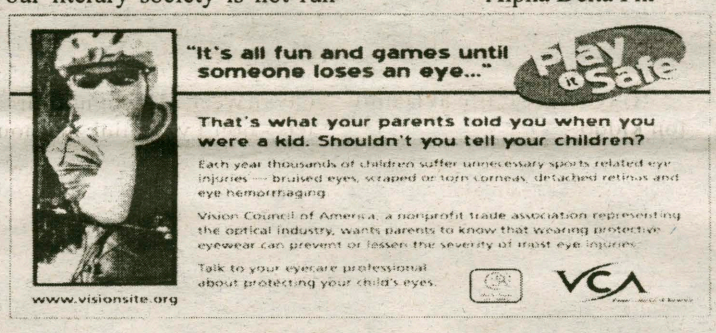
Vision Council of America wants parents to know that wearing protective eyewear can prevent or lessen the severity of most eye injuries.

Talk to your eyecare professional about protecting your child's eyes.

VCA Vision Council of America

Check Smarty Save Cleverly

www.visionsite.org


"It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye..."
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That's what your parents told you when you were a kid. Shouldn't you tell your children?
Each year thousands of children suffer unnecessary sports related eye injuries — bruised eyes, scraped or torn corneas, detached retinas and eye hemorrhaging.
Vision Council of America, a nonprofit trade association representing the optical industry, wants parents to know that wearing protective eyewear can prevent or lessen the severity of most eye injuries.
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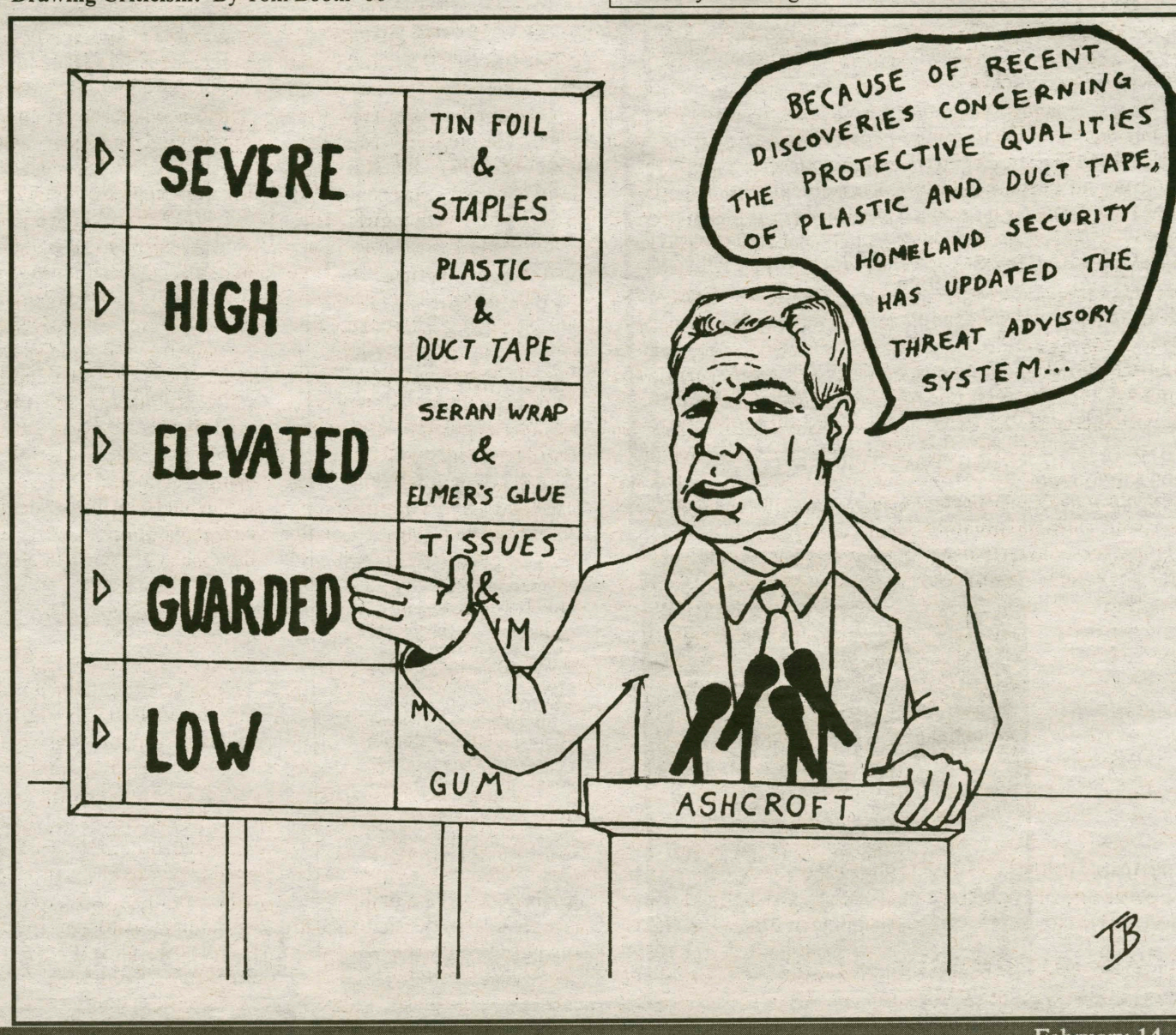
VCA
www.visionsite.org

Drawing Criticism: By Tom Booth '06



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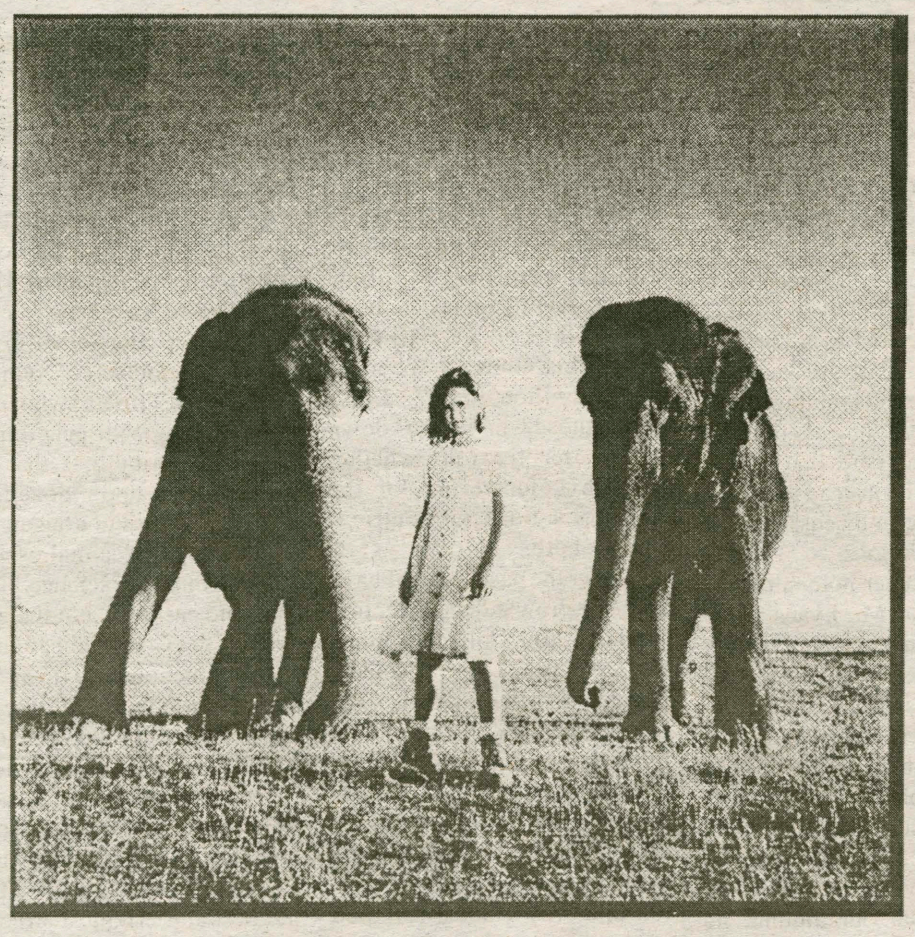


Which one would you choose?

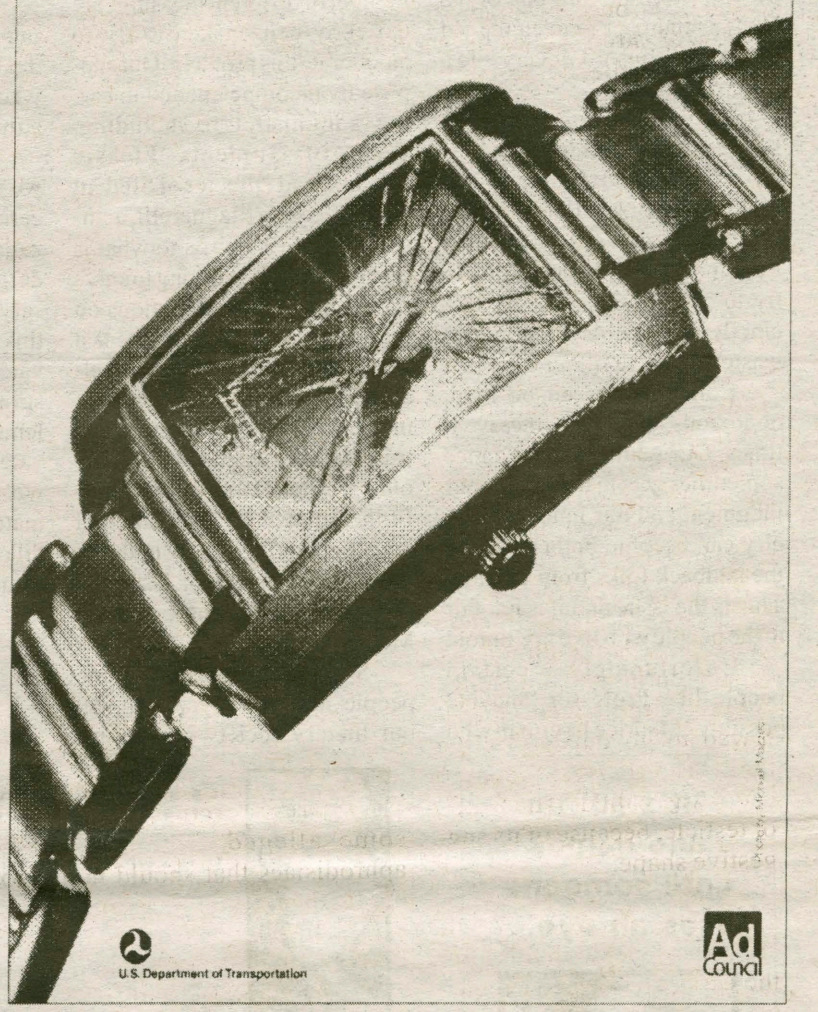
The elephants? The whales? The clean air we breathe? Maybe the choice isn't so clear. Maybe you'd like a way to keep them all. Now the world's leading environmental groups are working together. To find out how you can help, look for us at www.earthshare.org.

One environment. One simple way to care for it.

Earth Share

This is the watch Stephen Hollingshead, Jr. was wearing when he encountered a drunk driver. Time of death 6:55pm.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



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"It's all fun and games until someone loses an eye..."

That's what your parents told you when you were a kid. Shouldn't you tell your children?

Play it Safe

Each year thousands of children suffer unnecessary sports-related eye injuries — bruised eyes, scraped or torn corneas, detached retinas and eye hemorrhaging.

Vision Council of America wants parents to know that wearing protective eyewear can prevent or lessen the severity of most eye injuries.

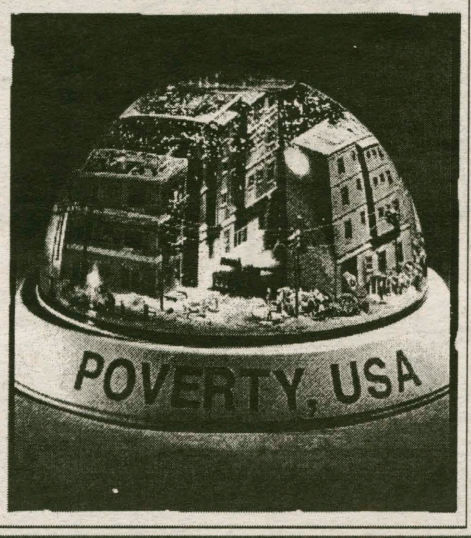
Talk to your eyecare professional about protecting your child's eyes.

VCA Vision Council of America

www.visionsite.org

Look closely and you'll find 32,000,000 trapped inside.

Here's a souvenir from a place the good times left behind. Where one out of every six children — and one out of every eleven families — still struggles to survive. It's the state of poverty in America. And for more than 32 million people, it's a cold, hard place to live.



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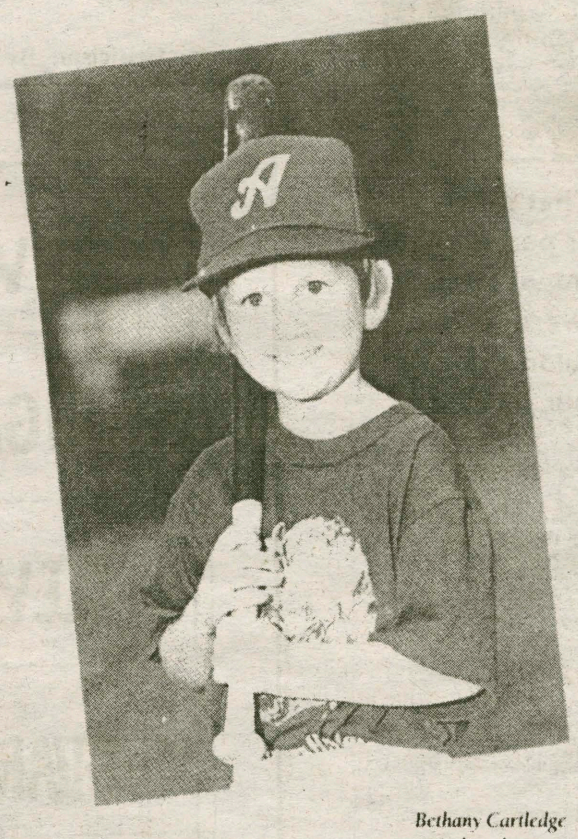


Bethany Cartledge
In-line skater
T-ball slugger
Drunk driving victim
January 18, 1994
Cheraw, SC

If you don't stop someone from driving drunk, who will? Do whatever it takes.

FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK.

Aphrodisiacs: they're what's for dinner

Helpful hints to spice up your Valentine's Day

by Katrina Lexa '05
SCIENCE WRITER

The word aphrodisiac has been defined as any substance used to arouse or intensify sexual desire. Aphrodisiacs are also believed to cure a variety of sexual anxieties, including poor performance and fertility.

The quest for aphrodisiacs spans the centuries. In the past, women mixed rams' testicles with honey to make a love potion. Today, Viagra has widespread fame as a drug that combats impotency. Aphrodisiacs are unquestionably one of the few items able to cross all barriers -- culture, age, race, sex and time. People are unanimous in their quest for a better sex life.

Early cultures regarded all foods with a phallic resemblance to be erotic stimulants. In fact, during the time of the Aztecs, virgins were not allowed to go outside during the avocado harvest. The avocado was called "ahuacati", or testicle, because of its suggestive shape.

Modern researchers generally consider aphrodisiacs to be on a level with folklore; the USDA published a report citing the lack of evidence concerning purported aphrodisiacs' ability to fulfill their claims of sexual improvement. However, according to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, very little research has been attempted on aphrodisiacs, other than hormone therapy to cure impotence.

Nevertheless, the few studies that have investigated foods as aphrodisiacs have discovered that many contain vitamins and minerals that are vital to a healthy reproductive system. According to Discovery's Health Channel, "Science is uncovering how vitamins and minerals in foods, chemicals in ancient aphrodisiac herbs, and even exercise can initiate the chemical cascade leading to the excitement of sexual desire."

There are some alleged aphrodisiacs that should not be touched, like the legendary Spanish Fly. Spanish Fly is a contemporary love potion made from the dried body of a beetle; it's stimulating effect is produced by the irritation it causes in the urinary tract, which rushes blood to the genital area. However, Spanish Fly is poisonous, and very illegal in the United States. Fortunately, most aphrodisiacs are relatively innocent.

Asparagus is one of the most well known aphrodisiacs, in part because of its obviously suggestive shape. Asparagus is also a rich source of vitamin E, which is thought to stimulate sexual hormones.

Chili peppers have long been considered to be stimulants. In the movie *Chocolat*, a chocolate-chili pepper mixture is sold to a woman to improve her husband's sexual appetite. Consumption of "capsaicin", a chemical found in spicy foods, is known to stimulate nerve endings. Studies have also shown the possibility of spicy foods' ability to trigger endorphin release, giving the body a natural high. Chocolate also contains a stimulant, known as phenylethylamine, which produces a reaction very similar tothat from natural endorphins.

The oyster is yet another food that is commonly believed to have aphrodisiac properties. The oyster is rich in zinc, one of the minerals required for testosterone production. Many people believe that testosterone is not only critical for a man's sex drive, but that it also stimulates the female libido.

WWW.HOLLYWOODJESUS.COM/CHOCOLAT.HTM

A combination of chocolate and chili peppers seemed to do the trick in the movie *Chocolat*. These everyday foods, along with oysters and a few other tasty comestibles, could be your ticket to romance this Valentine's Day.

The list of aphrodisiacs continues on -- depending on the literature, it can continue for pages. The best way to experiment with aphrodisiacs is to use them as an ingredient in a dish for your lover.

This Valentine's Day, brave the stovetops of the suites, or treat your significant other to a romantic dinner out, and look for foods that are thought to work as stimulants. For a quick, no-fuss dish, whip up some linguine with a pesto sauce.

In less time than it takes to make it through the line at the new Wal-Mart, you can fix a romantic dinner for two. But make sure to find a pesto sauce that includes pine nuts. Pine nuts are the staple aphrodisiac in this recipe; they contain large amounts of Zinc and have been used to stimulate the male libido since its properties were discovered in the third century by one of the great physicians of antiquity, Claudius Galenus.

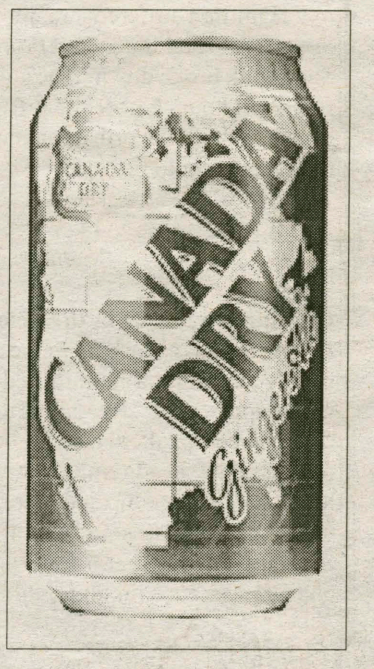
Why do we drink ginger ale when we're sick?

Stephanie Higgins '04 investigates the power of ginger

by Stephanie Higgins '04
CONTRIBUTING SCIENCE WRITER

Whenever I got sick as a little girl, my mother always made sure I drank plenty of ginger ale. She told me that my body needed the sugar to fight off the illness. But then why not give me Coke or Sprite? Those sodas have tons of sugar in them! What makes ginger ale so ideal for fighting off colds?

Could it be the carbonation, or the champagne color that does the trick? No, the secret ingredient is (drumroll please)... GINGER! That's right! The same spice that you ignore when you're playing with your mom's lazy susan is actually the key ingredient in making you feel better. In fact, ginger has a plethora of therapeutic applications that no drug can rival!



INVESTORS.PEPSIAMERICAS.COM/EARNINGS-FIRSTCALL.CFM?COMPANYID=PAS

Confucius never ate anything unless it contained ginger. Considered by the Chinese as a strengthening food, he allowed it to be consumed during periods of fasting and sacrificial worship when other foods were forbidden.

This wonder herb is also terrific for settling an upset stomach and aiding digestion. In fact, Commission E (the German equivalent of the FDA) found ginger capsules to be more effective than Dramamine in reducing motion sickness! This is why ginger ale is always served on airplanes and most cruise ship and airline chefs incorporate the herb into many of their dishes. It also could help you out of your Sunday morning hangover after that wild party in our charming Annex B.

Ginger is presently being tested for its effects on thermogenesis, or calorie burning. So far it has made tissues in rats use more energy than they would normally use. There's also continually increasing evidence for its natural anti-inflammatory properties. Dr. Neal Barnard, author of "Foods That Fight Pain" claims that, "It works like ibuprofen, but without the side effects." There is also no dosage limit, so it can be consumed by children and adults alike. However, you need to be consuming some ginger every day in order to feel the results.

And my favorite ginger-perk: ginger can be used as an aphrodisiac! Ginger is proven to enhance circulation and is known to stir up lustful thoughts! So right now you're probably saying to yourself, "What can I eat that has ginger in it?" Luckily, it is a very versatile herb that is used in many recipies.

There's ginger beef stir fry, ginger carrot soup, ginger swordfish, ginger rice, ginger tea and tons of desserts that include this wonder-herb, just to name a few. Our favorite semi-local bottling company, Saranac, makes a delicious Ginger Beer that I highly recommend.

So whip up some gingerbread men, dim the lights, and pop in some Frank Sinatra. And don't forget to send me a thank you e-mail in the morning. Happy gingering!

Features

Smashing the glass ceiling... from the other side

MAC crusades for women's rights on the Hill

Jessica Atcheson '03
FEATURES WRITER

Every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in KJ 107, a small, concerned group of male Hamilton students meet to address and discuss the presence of sexism and sexual assault on our campus. This group calls itself Men Advocating Change (MAC) and identifies itself in its mission statement as "a group committed to combating sexism and sexual assault at Hamilton and creating a more egalitarian and harmonious campus."

Dave Kolb '02 created MAC in the spring of 2001 after attending Take Back the Night, a gathering that provides the opportunity for people to speak out against violence against women. As current group leader Nate Stell '04 explains, Kolb was inspired to form an organization that worked under the assumption that sexism and sexual assault are "just as much men's issues as women's issues."

Active MAC member Anthony Ng '05, who is also peripherally involved with the Sexual Assault Center (SAC), says of the campus atmosphere surrounding these issues, "There is not enough discussion. People are still taking it as a joke."

MAC is taking a number of steps to challenge that atmosphere and its accompanying mind-set. They focus on the power and effect of language in reinforcing negative attitudes. Stell says, "There is not necessarily a crisis on this campus, but there are subtle ways in which sexism surfaces that are largely ignored, as in casual conversation."

Ng adds, "Be conscious of the words you use in daily conversation; you don't know how people are receiving them." However, as Stell reminds us, "It is not one factor, but an aggregate of factors that makes up the atmosphere." MAC works this realization into the action they take against sexual prejudice.

In collaboration with organizations such as SAC and the Harassment Grievance Board, MAC will be taking part in a panel discussion on sexual assault as part of the upcoming Masculinities conference, taking place on March 8-9.

MAC will also be showing their support of SAC and the benefit production of The Vagina Monologues by distributing fliers. The Vagina Monologues will take place on Friday, February 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the Events Barn as part of V-Day, a movement to stop violence against women.

A major project that MAC is working on involves forming and implementing a workshop to be carried out with residence halls, fraternities, and sports teams; the workshop uses videos, acted scenarios, and discussion in efforts to "put sexual assault in the context of masculinity," says Stell.

Ng thinks that the workshop will be an effective tool to influence people's ways of thinking; it will "get out the word; from person to person to person," he says. "Men are afraid, not willing to speak out," Ng says, emphasizing his belief that men's perception often is that to fit the norm, one must act a certain way.

Stell hopes that the workshop will "make men more likely to take a stand" when it comes to supporting women and protesting sexism and sexual assault. "Men should be taking a fair piece of the pie, of the burden," Ng says.

Though MAC had a rough time getting off the ground during the two years it has existed, Stell says that "It has really taken off this semester." He encourages anyone interested to attend a meeting.

Ng, voicing his hopes that MAC can effect slow and gradual change on campus, says, "I don't think that it will ever stop, but it can be eliminated to a certain extent, so that it doesn't affect females as much as it has."

Fighting for fun

Hamilton debaters back on campus

Erik Goulding '06
FEATURES CONTRIBUTOR

When you talk to friends back home, what comes up when you mention Hamilton College? What are we known for, anyway?

If you come from anywhere outside of New York state, once you've managed to explain what we're all about on the Hill ("Uh, yeah... it's in central New York. Near Utica. No, it's not Colgate"), you wind up drawing a blank about what the college really embodies. Sure, we have economics and government departments that are prestigious, and no major here is weak, but for what specifically are we known?

The answer, only a few years ago, would probably have been "our rhetoric department." Hamilton's public speaking courses were known far and wide and were the reason many undergrads applied here in the first place.

In recent years, this focus has diminished somewhat. This unfortunate change has hurt the college in a few ways, the least of which is a loss of name recognition.

It is with this in mind that one of Hamilton's oldest organizations, the debate team, is proud to announce its re-inception on campus after its dissolution two years ago, and its entry into several tournaments this semester. Last weekend, the team traveled to Boston University for a prestigious American Parliamentary Debate Association tournament. Posting two wins against Bowdoin, the Hamilton team competed against the top speakers in the country, facing traditional titans including MIT, Stanford, and Yale.

It is the team's hope to travel to more tournaments this year at schools such as Georgetown University and the University of Chicago. Moreover, the team has acquired the skills of Lisa Heller, former coach of the Bates College debate team, once national champions.

With the oratory skills of its members and expert coaching, the Hamilton debate team promises to bring our longstanding reputation of rhetorical excellence back to the Hill.

So keep an eye on the team's progress as they face the Ivy League in upcoming debates, or get in touch with Matt Colman '06 if you're interested in being a part of the team's charter year.

Won't you be our features writer?

Have a heart, write for us.

Email Allison at adavis for information

This Week In Hamilton History

9 YEARS AGO
February 4, 1994

Wish List for Residence Hall Improvements Prepared

In an effort to improve the residence halls and the quality of life on campus, the Hamilton College Board of Trustees has requested the input of Resident Advisors and students. The Trustees recently stated their intention to conduct a feasibility study of how to improve residential life on campus. The study will draw upon a "wish list" of suggested residence hall improvements submitted by R.A.s and students and the Residential Life Survey conducted last semester.

The wish list will be presented to the Trustees in March. Physical Plant's input and involvement in the project, along with that of students, is vital. Additional input will come from the Residential Advisors, who have combined to build a bank of ideas, suggestions, and creative concepts.

In North and Kirkland residence halls, for example, the list includes such items as installing carpeting in the hallways, new windows, bookshelves in each room and new refrigerators in the common areas.

A major incentive behind the project is to make Hamilton more appealing to prospective students, the primary targets of this undertaking. Another motivation for the project is to improve the overall aesthetics of the residence halls.

11 YEARS AGO
January 31, 1992

Windmill Construction Under Way

The Class of 1991 senior gift, a windmill to generate electricity for Beineke Student Activities Village, will be standing tall shortly. Its erection marks the first structure to be put up for the village, which will house a new mail center, a new Hub-like dining facility, and ample lounge space. A performance area with a stage, tables and a balcony will provide space for Wednesday Night Live, movies and other activities. The village is scheduled to open in December 1993.

24 YEARS AGO
February 23, 1979

Thieves Caught, For Once

This past weekend, many of the suites in "B" dorm [currently called Babbitt - ed.] were systematically burglarized by a few of our fellow students who many believe were simply out having a good time. Unlike other incidents on campus that resemble those of last weekend, in which no one is ever caught or blamed, this time evidence of the crimes was discovered in another "B" dorm suite.

The students living in this suite have apologized and offered to pay for any damage to the merchandise taken as well as to replace the food consumed, hoping that they may avoid disciplinary action. The matter has been brought before the Dean of Students and the Judicial Board; a decision is pending.

29 YEARS AGO
February 17, 1974

Sage Rink Suffers Setback

Hamilton suffered a major emotional and financial setback this week when the refrigeration system for Hamilton's famed Sage Rink broke down. The solid ice floor turned to slush in the few short hours before the refrigeration failure was discovered, causing $40,000 worth of damage to the rink and its seats before the system could be repaired.

41 YEARS AGO
February 12, 1962

Chilling Discovery in the Science Building

A linesman working in the attic of the Science Building this past week found a mummified head wrapped in four-year old newspaper. A detective called to campus by the Dean of Students determined that there had not been a murder on the Hill, but the origins of the head remain a mystery. The Biology department has denied ownership and there is no record of any other college department possessing a mummy. Winton Tolles, Dean of Students, doubts that a fraternity was connected to the head's appearance, but said no possibilities have been ruled out.

Compiled by Dan Bleeker '06

Hunger and Homelessness Week

February 17-22

Monday
Fast for world (and local) hunger. Sign off your meals and donate to non-profits addressing hunger (OXFAM and JCTOD). Sign off your meals in Beinecke.

Tuesday
Interested in finding out about local hunger and homelessness? Attend a panel discussion by local activists (Events Barn, 7 PM).

Wednesday
Fair Trade Coffee: Taste and Learn. Try coffee that is worker friendly and sign a petition to encourage a major coffee distributor to use worker friendly coffee too (Wednesday - Friday).

Thursday
Brown Bag Lunch: Soup for School
(ELS, 12 PM; RSVP at enrichar)
Do you know how food is distributed around the world? Come to the Hunger Banquet to find out (Annex, 6:30; RSVP at enrichar).

Friday
Interested in getting involved? Talk to a member of HAVOC in Beinecke and volunteer locally.

Weeklong Events

Volunteer in a soup kitchen or food pantry (sign up in Beinecke).

Give all your loose change to the Penny War to win your class year prestige and to benefit Habitat for Humanity (located in the dining halls).

Donate specific food items to a food drive to combat local hunger (look for brown paper bags!).

Hunger and Homelessness Week is a time to reflect on the realities of these two issues and take direct action both locally and internationally. The Hamilton community is invited to participate in activities aimed to raise awareness and promote change. Hunger and Homelessness Week is brought to you by HAVOC, BSU, LV, ACS, LS, ISA, Emerson Literary Society, Kappa Sigma Alpha, Alpha Delta Phi, Kappa Delta Omego, Gamma Xi and Amnesty International.

Freyer returns to Hamilton for lecture

But did he return the spoons to Keehn?

by Christopher LaRosa '03
SENIOR EDITOR

John Freyer '95 spoke to nearly fifty students in the KJ-Auditorium last night. Freyer recently authored All My Life for Sale, a documentary travelogue that details the process of selling all of his personal belongings on eBay and traveling around the country to meet their new owners.

"I was trying to get out of the place I was living in. That's when I started...It's kind of like being here in the winter," said Freyer to a captive audience that braved heavy winds and snow squalls to attend the talk.

During his talk, Freyer chronicled the creation of his book, which is in and of itself a chronicle of his life. Freyer said that he posted signs around Iowa City advertising an "inventory party" where guests would tag and catalogue everything he would sell.

"I didn't want to sell anything. [The party] made it easier for me to get rid of things... By the end of this inventory party, which if you provide a lot of beer ends up lasting very long, people were tagging everything, including each other."

Freyer didn't auction his friends, but he did sell dates, dinners, and parties with his friends. Some of his friends were inevitably worth more than others. When asked by a student how dedicated Freyer was to selling the entirety of his earthly possessions, Freyer said he kept those belongings that would enable him to reach his goal of meeting his objects' new owners around the country.

"By the end of the sale I had a car, a used laptop computer which I bought from the proceeds, a pair of pants that zippered into shorts - I thought they might be useful on the road... I wasn't walking around Iowa City naked."

Freyer's father, Jack Freyer '57, an English and Government major while at Hamilton, accompanied John back to the Hill for the talk. The younger Freyer, now working on his M.F.A. at the University of Iowa, gave detailed accounts from his time on the Hill throughout his talk and lauded a liberal arts education.

"When you have a liberal arts degree you can do anything. You're prepared to go just about anywhere. [All My Life for Sale] was informed by my research when I was an undergraduate in government... Just in case you're worried the thesis you're working on isn't worth anything, [mine] sold to the high bidder for twenty dollars," said Freyer.

Freyer's project had many twists and turns, not the least of which is his deciding not to move after all.

"I got engaged and it looks like I'll be in Iowa City for a good long while," said Freyer. Though he may not have reached his goal to escape the Midwest, Freyer met with unqualified success entertaining students throughout his talk Thursday night.

Various organizations collaborate for Hunger and Homelessness Week

by James DuVernay '03
SENIOR FEATURES EDITOR

Poverty and material need will take the unusual role of center stage on the Hill this coming week as HAVOC presents Hunger and Homelessness Week.

The week-long schedule of activities provides the Hamilton Community with information on the realities of hunger and homelessness, as well as ways to act against them. HAVOC has received sponsorship help from ten other campus organizations.

Co-coordinator Alison Lin '03 explained that "Hunger and Homelessness Week is a time to reflect on the realities of these two issues and take direct action both locally and internationally."

The event's other co-coordinator, Emily Richardson '03, agreed, adding " People may not realize, or may not choose to realize, that there are many people in this nation and the world without a place to live or enough to eat."

COURTESY OF WWW. CORBIS.COM

It's not just yur morning cuppa joe: coffee's political connotations can affect millions of peoples' lives around the world. So think before you drink!

The highlight of the week will occur Thursday evening with the Hunger Banquet, where participants will experience first-hand the inequalities in world food consumption. Each person attending the event will be assigned to one of three categories that reflect the distribution of food among the world's peoples.

Richardson explained how striking the banquet can be: "You are served a meal, that is typical for your income group, but the unusual thing about the dinner is you can see the people who have only rice to eat, and you realize that it is not fair."

Only 10% of participants, corresponding to the world's wealthiest inhabitants, will receive a three-course meal; the others will receive rice and beans or even just rice.

Hunger and Homelessness Week begins this Monday with a fast. By joining in the official campus fast, students will have the chance to personally feel the effects of hunger.

Sadly, many children living in the area experience hunger on a daily basis. U.S. Census bureau statistics show that more than 5% of children in the Village of Clinton live in poverty, as do nearly 40% of the children in Utica.

Students will also have the chance to directly combat this problem by donating meal-plan and bonus meals, which will be donated to a local organization and an international one that provides meals to the hungry.

In addition to the fast, HAVOC will collect food donations throughout the week for local food pantries.

Students can take another positive step by learning about Fair Trade coffee. According to Liz McPhillips '05, Fair Trade Coffee Coordinator, "Fair Trade is about socially responsible consumption. Each cup of coffee links us directly to the rural poor."

Coffee farmers receive approximately 11% of the price for Fair Trade coffee, or more than three times more than from the sale of regular coffee.

The Spectator's Valentine's

Features brings you the hottest young singles on the Hill...

by Allison Davis
Features Editor
and
Dan Bleeker
Associate Features Editor

Eric Bowman '04
Libra

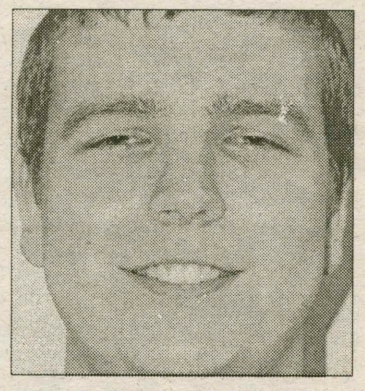
Eric's a junior and native New Yorker seeking a cute blonde with a nice ass. He promises that special girl that he will seriously rock her casbah if she stops by his classy Babbitt suite.

All applicants must own one or more thongs - if this sounds like you, godspeed.

Eric can typically be found ridiculously inebriated on an average Saturday night, but otherwise he spends his time studying hard, trying to figure out how to put a philosophy major to good use post-graduation, and generally pondering the meaning of life.

Like many on the Hamilton campus, Eric is a fan of Natty Ice and McEwen gravy on the rocks. Tasty.

In ten years, Eric sees himself surrounded by all the beautiful blondes currently reading this article - if you meet this description and are reading this, you have legally committed yourself to pleasuring him for the rest of your life. Congratulations!



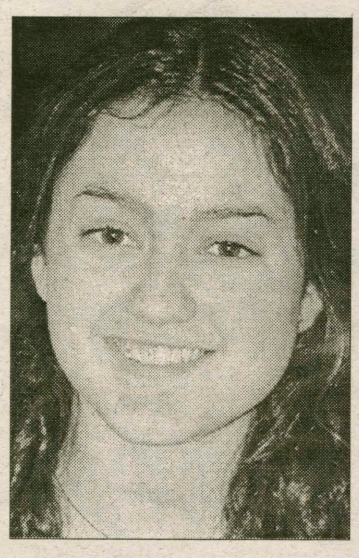
Erik Goulding '06
Aquarius

Erik's not looking for perfection, just a girl of refinement, of course, and "an appreciation for Kevin Smith, Vladimir Nabakov, and Keystone Ice. In that order. And of course, if you can tell me how to beat World 8 in Super Mario Brothers (the original NES! None of this hippy PS2 bullshit!), I'll melt like butter."

Personality and looks are second to these important factors. He'll take his dream girl out for "fingers and fries at the diner, a walk across the scenic Breezeway ('Wow, look at all the... uh... snow!'), a walk through South (to show the kind of palatial life I will of course lead. Someday.), and then a quick trip back to North, to remind her that this is college, dammit, and life sucks."

For hobbies, Eric replies "Hobbies? Between ALLCAMPUS-A, AIM, and Agginazation, who needs HOBBIES?" Right on, man.

His favorite beverage? "Please. Keystone for the domestic occasions (after the fifth one, it doesn't even taste like warm piss anymore!), Miller Genuine Draft when things turn fancy. It is, after all, the Champagne of Beers." Finally, Erik would like to get down and dirty on the pool table that used to be in North basement, but since someone stole it, he isn't sure where.

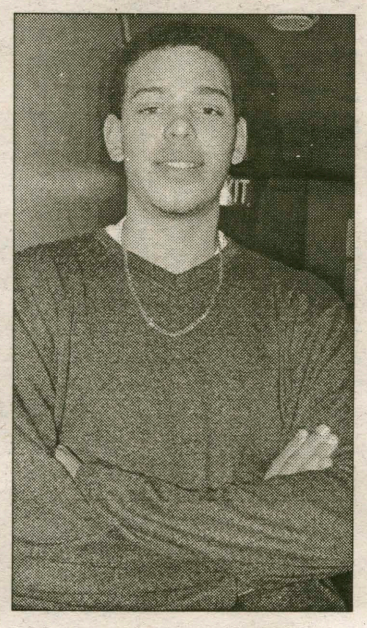


Maria Fernandez '03
Scorpio

Maria's an adventurous senior who describes her ideal date as "something involving a banana split and the kiddie pool near Minor circle." This girl obviously wants more than the ho-hum "dinner-and-a-movie" evening out, so everyday Romeos need not apply.

If you want to make her happy, "send me love poems, banana splits, and hot brownie sundaes at midnight." Her varied interests include nose-picking, eating Ben and Jerry's Phish food, showering drunk and collecting men on her wall.

She admits that she is "frequently tardy, and I monopolize other peoples' bed space." This girl has nothing to hide - she'll spend her weekend nights "drunk at home" with no shame, and she would like to explore various conjugal opportunities "on top of the desk in Kirkland cottage."



Josh Huling '05
Virgo

Josh is seeking a spontaneous, athletic, attractive chick - but "she can't be short. No short girls." He spends his time biking and rowing on the crew team, and he enjoys strawberry-banana smoothies.

He'll serenade his lucky mate Top Gun-style with "You've Lost that Loving Feeling" - watch out, Tom Cruise. He admits to have hooked up at Hamilton "in his room, in my roommate's bed, while he was in it." Pretty racy.

Nick Roberge '03
Scorpio

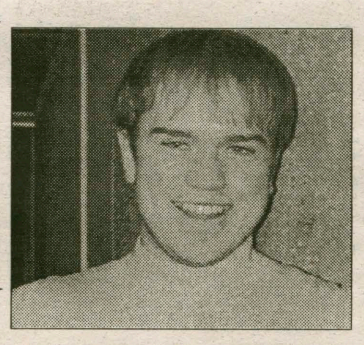
Nick's a head RA hailing from Bundy West, who looking for a classic girl - "smart, interesting to talk to, and with a sense of humor."

If you'd like a date with this senior stud, he's thinkin' "some candlelight, some satin sheets, a little Barry Manilow and some incense - in the back of the jitney."

He enjoys skiing, French impressionism and pool, and obviously knows his way around said jitney - ask him about his romantic encounters in Hamilton's favorite mode of transportation!

Although Nick is an RA, don't take him to be the conservative type - he'll do you a favor on Tobin's desk before you can say "wha!?"

In ten years, Nick intends to be the worldly cosmopolitan type, living on his enormous yacht sipping peace lemonade.



Peter Coxeter '05
Pisces

Pete's looking for chemistry, plain and simple. As he says "when you meet that special someone, you just know it's right." We sure do, Pete. We sure do.

He loves long walks on the beach and getting caught outside when it rains. In ten years, he sees himself working "in the private sector." How mysterious!

If you want to find out more about this intriguing young man, let him take you out for a nice dinner, pina coladas and "flowers on the bench in the glen." We're not sure exactly what that entails, but it's worth checking out.

Greer Mahoney '05
Capricorn

Greer is a diamond in the rough of Bundy East, and defines her ideal guy as "fun, with a really good personality."

She'd like to be taken out for a classy candlelight dinner in Commons, then off to Sangertown Mall for a little window-shopping, and finally to Turning Stone, where everyone's a winner.

She's a runner who likes to hang out with her friends, and you'll melt her heart if you play U2's 'The Sweetest Thing.'

If you meet her standards, she'll propose a toast of Amaretto Sour, and maybe take you for a little sweet, sweet lovin' on the third floor of Burke library.

Jason Haas '05
Aquarius

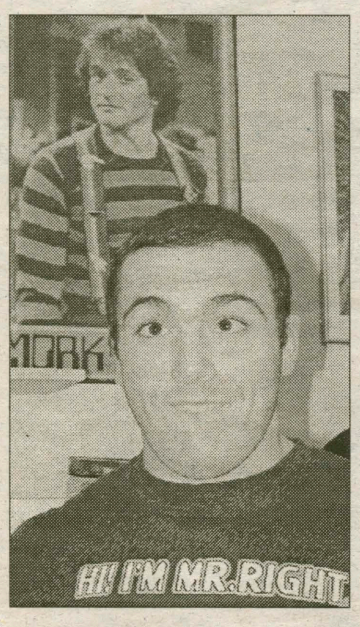
Jason's a social butterfly seeking an open-minded, honest mate - gender is not an issue - who is intelligent, but not too brainy and easy on the eyes.

If you meet these criteria, he'll take you out for a walk on a "warm, starry night, then we'll sit in opus and talk over non-fat lattes. Later, we'll cruise down Skyline Drive."

He'd like to get romantic on the third floor of the Chapel, "surrounded by pillows and candles. That's quite a change of scene from one of his previous hookups, which took place "in Keehn, on the food prep table." Jason loves party-hopping, free swim and is an active student organizer on campus. He sees himself becoming "a sought-after publicist in the entertainment industry."

Day Personals Extravaganza

just in time for those cold winter nights!



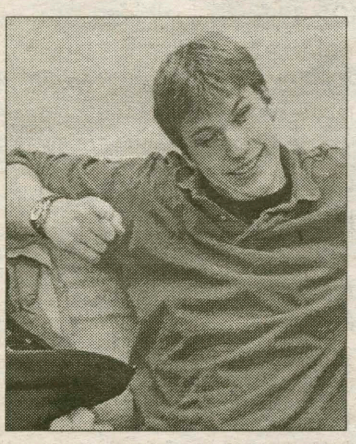
Steve Butterhof '05
Capricorn

'Butter' is looking for a lady with character - he has plenty of it and is seeking the same, for as he puts it, "Nothing presents character like Jim O'Mara's hairstyle and a personal in the Spec."

If you want to win his heart, buy him a pair of ski goggles so he can brave the blizzard walking up the hill from DKE house, where he makes his home.

He plays football for our beloved Conts, and takes his dates to the weight room. He can be found in Thrillbank on a typical weekend night, and if you happen to run into him there and hit it off, he'll want to spend the night in your room, because his roommate is a slob.

In ten years, Butter believes he will be "rich, but not flaunting it... ah, I'll probably be poor."



Whit Rothe '05
Cancer

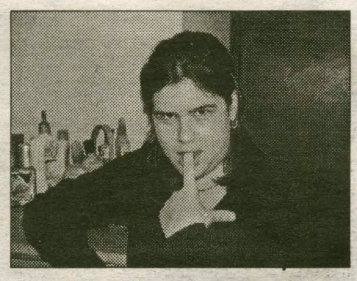
Straight from the Spec office is sophomore Whit Rothe. Ladies, don't pass this one up - Whit's ideal chick is easy (but clean) and is not afraid to be herself. If you want to rub Whit the right way, eat regular meals, for God's sake. And if you want to make him even happier, cook him dinner and mix him a stiff drink - as he says, "you can't beat a jack and coke."

His ideal date is classy yet iconoclastic - he'll take you on a moonlit boat tour around his quaint hometown of Manhattan, but if circumstances prevent leaving the Hill, he'd agree to doing it in McEwen.

Whit considers himself to be film buff, and can often be found catching a flick on weekend nights - that is, when he's not busy managing his own movie company - Dark Horizon Entertainment. Whit has one thing to say to the ladies of the 'tech:

"It's easy to grin when your ship comes in and you've got the stock market beat.

But the man worthwhile is the man who can smile
when his shorts are too tight in the seat."



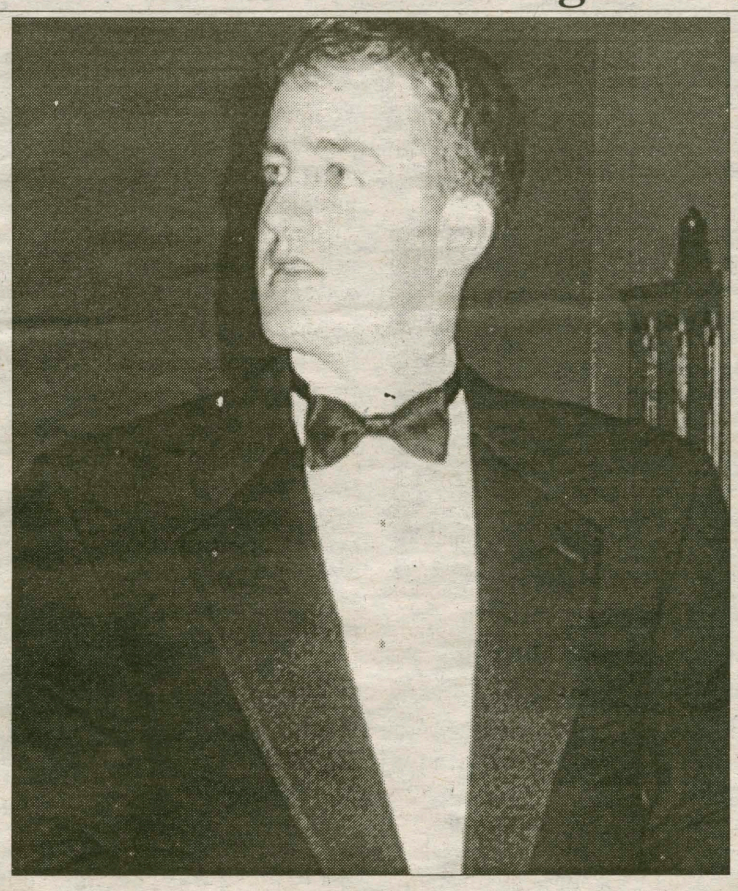
Johanna Korson '06
Aries

Johanna's a first-year hailing from where everyone wants to be: a palatial dorm in South. First and foremost, she's looking for someone who wears keeps his shirt on at all times, and who will spoil her by taking her on a midnight picnic (with candles) in their dorm room.

If sparks fly, she just might take you for a little one-on-one time in the fourth floor lounge of South, or in her roommate's bed (just don't tell her we told you).

In ten years, she sees herself working in a high-class strip club dancing to the sweet strains of "I Touch Myself."

Sadly, she barely remembers most of her Saturday nights, but as she tells us, they're spent "in too many beds to remember."



Thatcher Martin '03
Sign Unknown

Thatcher's ideal Valentine is Jack Daniel's but he's willing to make an exception for that special girl. He's a studly senior hailing from G-road - if that's too far for you, he'll be sure to pick you up in his the 10-speed "Specialized Rock Hopper" or his red jeep known for its mood lighting. In the traditional central New York mold, Thatcher is a NASCAR fan who likes to cause cat fights at the VT, but he'd like to assure the ladies that he loves to paint watercolors.

Thatcher has high standards - he's looking for a certain type of girl: a "mute chick who is a booze bag and will go snow shoeing in the glen with me." If you're lucky, he might buy you some quality Hamilton gear from the College store!

Thatcher's ideal hook-up spot was North Court, but since it's been awhile since that even existed, he'll settle for nookie on the walk up College Hill Road on the way back from the VT.

Matt Innes '05 and Nate Adler '05
Leo and Virgo

Matt and Nate come as a package deal, so they're going to need a woman who can handle twice the lovin'. They're seeking a " 7-foot-tall Amazon red head who likes to work out. She must enjoy long walks on the beach, and be willing to let Innes call her 'Cupcake." They spend their time engaged in various productive hobbies, including lacrosse, darts, and "wasting time in Commons with the Fighting Prophet intramural basketball team." They spend their average Saturday night playing Basement Beirut, downtown in Clinton, or "In Da Club with 50 Cent" pounding their fave drinks - sake bombs. These boys are game for a hookup in Ron Chase's office, having already taken advantage of previous romantic opportunities in Al-Ham's chair between the cannons; but if you want to take it slow, they'll serenade you with Ludacris' romantic tune "Use a Ho" and take you out for a night at Turning Stone, since "Burt Bacharach plus blackjack equals romance. In ten years, they see them selves "in an Ohio minimum-security prison, fending off our fellow inmates." Clutch, baby. In response to all the haters out there, they have one thing to say "It's a dog-eat-dog world out there. We're just squirrels trying to get a nut."

Sean Tice '06
Pieces

Sean's a first-year living in Macintosh, seeking a low-maintenance type of gal who will give him some space to pursue his own interests. As he explains

"I'm pretty busy with my [WHCL] show, Groove Traffic Control, on Thursdays from 10 AM to noon, but I'll show her how to push all the right buttons at WHCL."

His ideal date would take place live on the air in the WHCL control booth - ladies, this man is spontaneous! He'll wine and dine that special girl on McEwen pizza, covered with Thousand Island dressing - "but none of that fat-free sh*t," followed by a Shirley Temple toast.

Sean is also a man of ambition - in ten years, he envisions himself on the air in Europe, playing world music to all the lovely ladies who are beyond the range of WHCL's minimal wattage.

The Features staff would like to thank Annatasha Gritten and Dan Bleeker for their phtographic contribution to the Personals.

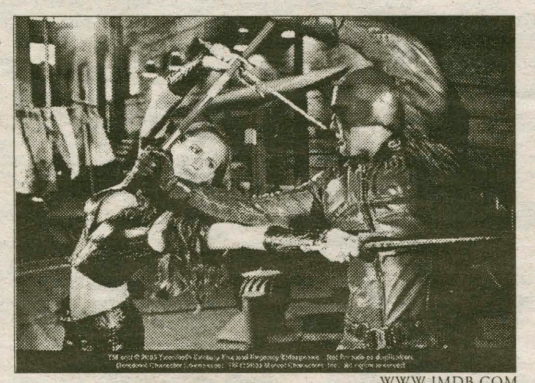
In addition, we would like to thank the powers that be - Chris Takacs and Alex Sear - for saving the Personals from disappearing into oblivion and allowing this section to be possible at a time of night when no one should be awake.

Arts & Entertainment

Daredevil meets the Oscars

Brian Sweeney '06 gives you the scoop

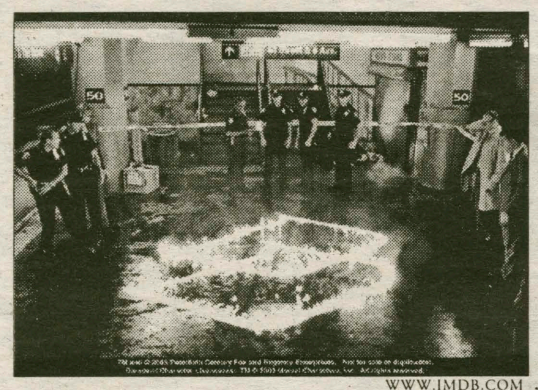
This week there are two things being discussed heavily in association with the movies *Daredevil* and the Oscar nominations. Unfortunately, that was the last time that you will see the words "Daredevil" and "Oscar" in the same sentence. Still, I think that this superhero movie is more worth discussing than this year's Oscars.



WWW.IMDB.COM

How could Daredevil be afraid of Jennifer Garner when he has to go home to Jennifer Lopez?

The comic book genre is an interesting thing to watch these days. *Spider-man* was the highest grossing film of 2002, and this year will see the release of two other major comic book movies: *X-Men 2* and *The Hulk*. So right now there is an incredible market for these types of films, and Marvel seems to be the company using this current interest best to its advantage. DC comics is incapable of anything at the moment, as their two main characters just haven't been able to find a halfway decent script. As DC remains in limbo, Marvel comics just keeps pumping out adaptation after adaptation. Its latest, *Daredevil*, directed by Mark Steven Johnson and starring Ben Affleck, Jennifer Garner, Michael Clarke Duncan, Colin Farrell and Joe Pantoliano, opens today.



WWW.IMDB.COM

While not as cool as the Bat signal, the Double D is still pretty sweet.

I for one was not too interested by the trailers released for this film. Ben Affleck just doesn't seem like the superhero type (the guy wants to marry Jennifer Lopez: how good could his judgment be?) to me. However, I've been reading some reviews from fans of the comics who seem to say that the movie is actually quite good. They say that it is a more personal film than you may expect, more about the characters than the action. A lot of people also said that *Spider-man* was quite good, and I still cannot understand how that movie ever fooled so many people. Aside from some of the origin material towards the beginning, *Spider-man* was a very poorly constructed movie that I saw as a $400 million failure. *Daredevil* will never make that much money, but I hope people are a little bit more accurate in their assessment of this movie. Whether or not they are accurate, you can be the judge.

Now onto the Oscars. I spoke enough about my disdain for these awards (unless of course everything I like wins) when the Golden Globes were broadcast. So rather than complain about the shortsightedness that seems commonplace amongst the academy voters, I'll just let you know what has been nominated. Since most people only care about the major categories, I will cover them alone. The nominees for Best Picture are: *Chicago*, *Gangs of New York*, *The Hours*, *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, and *The Pianist*. The nominees for Best Actor are: Adrien Brody, Nicolas Cage, Michael Caine, Daniel Day-Lewis and Jack Nicholson. The nominees for Best Actress are: Salma Hayek, Nicole Kidman, Diane Lane, Julianne Moore, and Renee Zellweger. The nominees for Best Supporting Actor are: Chris Cooper, Ed Harris, Paul Newman, John C. Reilly, and Christopher Walken. The nominees for Best Supporting Actress are: Kathy Bates, Julianne Moore, Queen Latifah, Meryl Streep and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

On second thought there is one thing about which I would like to complain. There seem to be a few new rules going into place that will assure that no sequel can be nominated for Best Original Score and possibly other categories; such a rule is absolutely ridiculous. If, in a sequel, the composer decides to repeatedly play the original movie's main theme, the Academy can just choose not to nominate that sequel (seems really simple and straightforward, doesn't it?). However if most of the music is new in a sequel and the composer interweaves the themes from the first movie for continuities sake, that movie should be just as eligible. Nino Rota and Carmine Coppola's score for *The Godfather: Part II* won the award way back in 1975 and they still used the main themes from the original, but the new music they composed was exceptional and deserved the award. John Williams' score for *The Empire Strikes Back* is far superior to that of the original *Star Wars*. "The Imperial March" (Darth Vader's music) was introduced in the 1980 sequel and remains one of the most recognizable movie themes of all time. *Empire*'s score may not have won, but it was at least given the nomination. Under these new rules, neither aforementioned sequels would have been nominated. To make those scores ineligible for recognition is a crime.

Special Thanks to www.imdb.com and www.boxofficemojo.com

Yin Mei Dance Company comes to Wellin this Saturday Night

Clinton, NY - TheYin Mei Dance Company will perform /Asunder on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 8 pm, in Wellin Hall, Schambach Center for Music and the Performing Arts on the campus of Hamilton College. The performance is part of the Hamilton College Performing Arts Contemporary Voices and Visions series.

/Asunder is a collaboration between choreographer and dancer Yin Mei, composer Robert Een and visual artist Cai Guo-Qiang. This visually powerful work features four dancers and an original recorded score by Robert Een. Text for the piece was contributed by world-renowned poet Mark Strand.

Thematically, /Asunder explores the notions of love: the effects of its presence and absence and the consequences of its pursuit and loss. The dance is also about the struggle for opposites to reconcile and connect with each other. Yin Mei writes, "Man, Woman. Image, Movement. "Downtown" dance, Tai Chi. Eastern tradition, Western innovation. This piece is about the struggle to connect."

HAMILTON PERFORMING ARTS

You know you want one of those wicked cool fans. Check out the dance concert in Wellin this Saturday night.

/Asunder melds diverse choreographic, visual and musical elements and styles. Mei's choreography offers a series of dreamlike episodes in which the dancers, as if echoing the piece's title, come together and separate in constantly evolving pairings. The delicately charged score ties the elements together seamlessly into a whole. The stage installation includes the flurry of a thousand arrows that later morphs into a strange forest and a calm moonlit pool in which a couple quietly embraces amidst the languid movements of live fish.

This performance is funded in part by the National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts, with lead funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Additional funding is provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Philip Morris Companies, Inc.

Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for seniors and $5 for students. All seating is general admission. For more information or to order tickets, call the box office at 859-4331. Box office hours are 1 - 4 pm weekdays.

LAST WEEKEND AT THE MOVIES

Weekend Gross/**Total Gross**

1. How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days
$23,774,850
$23,774,850
2. Shanghai Knights
$19,603,630
$19,603,630
3. Chicago
$10,786,533
$63,803,153
4. The Recruit
$9,226,419
$29,822,115
5. Final Destination 2
$8,389,650
$27,876,495
6. Deliver Us from Eva
$6,648,374
$6,648,374
7. Kangaroo Jack
$6,105,250
$53,035,263
8. Biker Boyz
$4,233,485
$16,017,600
9. Darkness Falls
$3,820,366
$26,806,695
10. Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
$3,516,739
$320,857,049

Chicago, the musical is back

Alina Troya '04 takes a look at this Oscar nominated musical

Murder, fame, lies, and scandal in 1920s Chicago!

It's "All That Jazz" and more as the opening scene of *Chicago* shows Velma Kelly (Catherine Zeta-Jones) washing blood off her hands before taking the stage. She has murdered her husband and sister in a jealous rage. Meanwhile, we get flashes of Roxanne 'Roxie' Hart (Renée Zellweger) as she watches and admires Velma in the hopes of someday starring in her own act. Roxie's new lover tells her he'll make her famous, but when he tries to leave her and confesses he has no connections in the world of showbiz, she shoots him. Her husband, Amos Hart (John C. Reilly), refuses to take the blame for her murderous affair, so Roxie goes to jail where she will wait to be hanged.

It's in jail that Roxie meets Velma, now famous for her double-murder, her face flashing all over the tabloids. Velma has no sympathy for Roxie. The prison warden, Mrs. Morton, better known as Mama (Queen Latifah), offers to help her get the best trial lawyer in Chicago, for a price of course. He's none other than Billy Flynn (Richard Gere): the same man that is defending Velma. A puppeteer over the reporters' headlines, Billy has some tricks up his sleeve that help put the spotlight on Roxie; Velma is left in the dark. Even when a new murderess joins their cellblock, Roxie manages to regain media attention. Having turned down an offer from the rejected Velma to be her partner in a Vaudeville act, Roxie faces her trial and awaits the verdict that will determine her life. A story of the ruthless competition for the rights to fame, Chicago parodies craving of both the public and the press for murder and scandal on the front page of their 1920s newspapers.

Director Rob Marshall and editor Martin Walsh do a fabulous job of adapting the hit Broadway musical, *Chicago*. Screenwriter Bill Condon works off the original musical writers, Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse, to display the thoughts and imagination of each character while developing their personalities in the musical numbers that spring up throughout the plotted story-line. The musical numbers are technically sound and visually fascinating. Many of them contrast black and white along with splashes of red and make use of mirrors to create vivid images while others are bright, busy and vibrant. Both Renée Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones are great in their musical numbers; Richard Gere is simply stylish and suave. Perhaps the most surprisingly excellent scenes were "Mr. Cellophane," sang and danced by John C. Reilly, as well as the tap-dance routine mixed in with the court scene that apparently took Richard Gere five months to master.

Although the songs in Chicago are not especially memorable, the lyrics are clever and exciting, and the choreography adds volumes to the dance scenes. In addition, the acting is just about as good as all the hype has built it up to be. As for Oscar nominations, Zellweger is in the best actress category, Zeta-Jones and Latifah are up for best supporting actress, and *Chicago* is in the best picture category! While Gere was not nominated, he in particular seemed to be having the time of his life. Zellweger reaches a peak in her acting career thus far, and despite the fact that her part is significantly smaller than advertised, Zeta-Jones flaw-

*see **Chicago**, page 21*

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days

McConaughey and Hudson in review, by Sondra Conti '05

Perhaps it's the formulaic plot line combined with the ultimate in cheesy dialogue that draws us in. Or could it be the Burberry scarves and the designer shoes? Even more likely, the up close, half naked shots of Matthew McConaughey? All are enticing, but I must admit that I cannot put my finger on one single thing that makes us females flock to the theater in droves for "chick flicks" such as, *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*. And we do flock. You can't hide it: I saw more Hamilton girls at the Sangertown Hoyts last weekend than I saw mid-riff baring, over-pierced middle-schoolers, and that means quite a few.

WWW.IMDB.COM

Matthew McConaughey: "I never forget a pussy.....cat! Especially one as hairy as yours, Kate Hudson."

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days, starring Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey, opened last Friday raking in 24.1 million nation wide and landing a #1 spot at the box office. You could have guessed the entire story line before even entering the theater. Hudson plays Andie Anderson, an advice columnist for a women's fashion magazine. Her current assignment is to expose how to push a man away in less than ten days. McConaughey plays Benjamin Barret, an employee at an advertisement agency. In order to beat out rival employees on a huge diamond deal, Benjamin bets his boss that he can make any woman fall for him in ten days. Oh gee, I wonder what happens next. Ben meets Andie, they both decide the other one is fair prey, and they go to work. Andie breaks every dating rule in the book: think naming the kids, calling your mother, and decorating your bathroom with fuzzy pink accessories before you've even shared the same comforter, and Benjamin puts up with it all in order to win his bet. Somewhere in this mess, she falls in love with him, and he (even though his bathroom cabinets are bursting with feminine supplies) falls in love with her. But oh no!!!! You cannot forget the climactic moment! He finds out he's the subject of a magazine article and she finds out she's only a bet and... well, I wouldn't want to ruin the ending for you.

In all honesty though, I cannot shoot down this movie. On the scale of "chick flicks", this one scores pretty highly. It's no "When Harry Met Sally", but in light of recent releases (think "Maid in Manhattan" and "Sweet Home Alabama") this one does pretty well. If you can get past the cheesy dialogue, the ugly dog, and the sickening bombardment of cutesy nicknames like "Benji", and "muffin" (at least she doesn't use "pumpkin") you might just like it! The soundtrack is decent, the chemistry between Hudson and McConaughey is charming, the comedy is laugh- out-loud funny, and the small love story that ensues between two of the supporting characters is enough to carry the movie. All in all I'd say it was worth my $4.50, and a perfect "girls night out" movie.

V-Day or D-Day? Either way, there is always a lot to do!

Shannon Fitzsimmons '05 with some helpful hints for Valentine's Day

It's here again, Valentine's Day, the time to get in touch with your romantic side and wow the one you love! Are you prepared? Even if you have no money, even if you don't have a Valentine, here are some great ways to celebrate the Day of Love...

In Your Room

Should you want to spend your Valentine's day blocked in your room (for WHATEVER reason), here are some great videos to put you in the spirit...

The Philadelphia Story: This classic 1940's comedy features the dream-team of Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and Jimmy Stewart. Hepburn plays a Philadelphia socialite on the eve of her remarriage who is forced to entertain a tabloid journalist (Stewart) in order to bail out her philandering father. Grant is her charming and exasperating ex-husband who just happens to reappear right before she is about to say "I do" again. The dialogue and chemistry here are amazing. The scene in which Hepburn and Stewart get plastered at her rehearsal dinner is not to be missed.

WWW.IMDB.COM

If you are dateless, Jacko is very available this Valentine's Day. And if you like this picture, you may have something in common.

Annie Hall: Woody Allen's most beloved film, featuring himself, Diane Keaton in the title role as the quirky and irresistible love of his life, and New York City as its glorious self; proof positive that even neurotic people need love. This is Allen in his prime, and the scene in which he has an unfortunate run-in with cocaine is worth the price of the rental by itself.

The Thomas Crown Affair: John McTiernan's sexy, smart cat-and-mouse-chase features Pierce Brosnan as a magnate who steals priceless art for the thrill of it and Rene Russo as the insurance investigator out to catch him in the act. The chemistry between the two stars is electric, and the love scenes are guaranteed to put anyone in the mood. Who needs anything more?

On The Hill

It's the middle of February in upstate New York. Chances are the weather will be wretched, and you won't want to leave campus. Luckily, Valentine's Day coincides with Febfest this year, so you still have some great options to keep you entertained.

The Vagina Monologues: The Sexual Assault Center is sponsoring its annual reading of Eve Ensler's play as a part of the worldwide V-Day movement, which aims to raise awareness and end violence against women. At 7 pm in the Barn, a cast of Hamilton students and faculty will be bringing this riotous, raunchy, and poignant piece to life. Remember: social consciousness is sexy, people.

Possession: Neil LaBute's film about two adversarial academics (played by Gwyneth Paltrow and Aaron Eckhart) who must work together to uncover a secret affair between the two nineteenth century writers (Jeremy Northam and Jennifer Ehle) that they have spent their lives researching. As the two stories intertwine, the modern scholars take a cue from their subjects and give in to love...this is what happens when you spend too much time in the library. The film will play at 7 pm in KJ Auditorium and is sponsored by the Samuel Kirkland Film Society.

Fireworks: Okay, so bundling up in eight layers of clothing and enduring sub-zero temperatures to watch someone set off multicolored explosives may not be your idea of romantic. But it just might be....so grab your sweetheart and some hot chocolate and head out to Minor Field at 9 pm to watch Febfest's annual fireworks display. Or better yet, find a Dark Side room with a view and enjoy the lights, good company, and the modern wonder of central heating.

Pietasters and *John Brown's Body*: Come out of the cold and warm up with this great double bill, kicking off at 10 pm in the Annex and cosponsored by CAB and those lovely folks at Febfest. The reggae stylings of *John Brown's Body* are a perennial favorite here on the Hill....and if you don't have a Valentine, this concert could be a great place to find one. Tickets are five dollars at the door with Hamilton ID, but FREE with a Febfest button.

*see **V-Day**, page 20*

MITHAT'S GAMING CORNER

Special guest writer Chris "Chief" Takacs explains the deadly art of the Ninja Assassin

WWW.GAMERSHELL.COM

Ninjas are so cool, and by cool, I mean really frickin sweet! If you also like to see unstoppable ninjas in action, check out *Shinobi* on Playstation 2.

Since the first *Shinobi* was released on mega drive, the title has been one to cause uncontrollable excitement and vulturous salivation amongst gamers of all kinds. The recent release of *Shinobi* on the Playstation 2, as expected, has been a success for Sega.

The next installment of the *Shinobi* series features, as in the past, much ninja-clad sword swinging action, with a plot as mysterious as the main character. The game opens with a flashback of your character, Shinobi, having to kill his brother to gain supremacy over the Shinjuko, an ancient clan of ninja. The rest of the game takes place in the near-future, in ruined Tokyo, as Shinobi struggles to ravenge the destruction of his clan.

Aside from the usual katana-and-shruiken action, Shinobi can dash with blinding speed away or toward opponents and use one of a number of spells to decimate enemies. The player's ability to use Shinobi's speed and strength well is necessary for progress in the game.

The game play is extremely smooth and flowing, with a rendering engine into which its developers, Overworks, clearly put a lot of work. Unfortunately, the developers have offered little innovation on the level-followed-by-boss format of platforms. Still, Shinobi is redeemed by its excellent graphics, intricate plot and playability.

Overall, since Shinobi is not a complicated game, and that may dissapoint some "hardcore" gamers. However, as a pick-up-and-play-platformer, it is an excellent continuation of the superb heritage started on the Mega Drive all those years ago.

Graphics: 80%
Music & Sound Effects: 85%
Originality: 65%
Creativity: 70%
Playability: 95%
Overall Game Rating: 80%

Liza Minnelli performing at Turning Stone

Blake Erb '05 gives an update on the comeback of the month and her connection to Hamilton

Liza Minnelli, the star of such shows as *Rent* and *Cabaret*, will be performing at the Turning Stone Casino on February 24-25. Minnelli's big break into the entertainment business resulted from her appearance in a film done by a Hamilton alumnus.

The concert, produced by David Gest, Minnelli's husband, will feature songs from Minnelli's new album, *Liza's Back!* including "Something's Wonderful" and "Some People."

Minnelli made her big break into the music and entertainment business when she was cast in the film *The Sterile Cuckoo*. The film is an adaptation of the book by the same name written by John Nichols, a 1962 Hamilton College graduate. *The Sterile Cuckoo* was filmed right on the Hamilton College campus. According to Michael DeBraggio, Director of Communications of Hamilton College, Liza Minnelli was just known as Judy Garland's daughter before she appeared in *The Sterile Cuckoo*. The film helped Minnelli achieve big name status in the entertainment business.

February 14th: First Overly Commercial Holiday of the Year

from ***V-Day****, page 19*

Out in the World

For those brave souls who care to venture beyond Hamilton (all the way to Sangertown) in search of the perfect Valentine's Day, here are some ideas to consider...
How To Lose a Guy In Ten Days: Kate Hudson plays a magazine writer whose latest assignment is to write an article about surefire ways to ditch a guy within ten days; her victim, played by Matthew McConaughey, just happens to have made a bet with his buddies that he can stay in a relationship for more than ten days. Let the games begin...Hudson is adorable, and McConaughey is, well, adorable. Even if the movie turns out to be another mindless romantic comedy, resourceful people on Valentine's day should come up with ways to keep themselves entertained anyway...
Daredevil: The latest comic book adaptation to be brought to the big screen, this one features Ben Affleck as a blind crime-fighting hero, Jennifer Garner as his love interest and nemesis Elecktra, and Colin Farrell and Michael Clarke Duncan as the bad guys. There should be enough action and romance to please guys and girls alike.
Chicago: This sizzling film adaptation of the Kander and Ebb musical has just racked up thirteen Academy Award nominations and features Renee Zellweger and Catherine Zeta-Jones as dueling divas on Murderer's Row. It's all about the allure of sex and glamour in 1920's Chicago, and don't be thrown off because there's singing and dancing: this is one hot movie. Check out the "Cellblock Tango" and you'll see what I mean.

So there you have it, the recipe for a romantic and entertaining Valentine's Day. Whether you are in your room, on the Hill, or out in the "Real World", there should be something for everyone to make this February 14th a memorable one.

Martha Rhodes is Sassy! All about Hamilton's new Writer in Residence.

Between the sheets: book reviews by Taylor Fleming-Henning '04

I like Martha Rhodes; she's sassy. Or at least, in the impersonal format of electronic mail, she seemed so. All week, my English and Creative Writing professors have been hounding me (and I mean that in a good way) about Ms. Rhodes' visit, about turning something in for her to workshop, about her reading on Thursday, February 20th in the Evénts Barn (to which I will go, right after Writers Bloc, yes that was a shameless plug.) And then Chris, the ever-present nagging dictator of A&E has also been harassing me about Martha Rhodes. "Martha, Martha, Martha...it's all about Martha!" Who is this Martha Rhodes character? She is Hamilton's Writer-in-Residence starting this Sunday and going through next Friday, February 21st. But before that, she was a poet, writer, teacher and founder/director of her own press (and still is) and she's won a few prizes. Impressive, no? She will fit right in here at this campus full of multi-taskers. Her official bio, as printed on those spiffy, pink notices you've seen posted around campus, and as she sent to me, and as abridged by me, is this: Ms. Rhodes is the author of two poetry books: *Perfect Disappearance*(winner of the 2000 Green Rose Prize from New Issues Press) and *At the Gate* (Provincetown Arts Press, 1995).

Her poems have appeared in many anthologies, such as, *American Poets: A Bread Loaf Anthology* (Michael Collier Ed. University Press of New England, 2000), and *The KGB Bar Book of Poems* (Lehman and Black, Eds. Harper Collins, 2000). She's been published in such notable reviews as *Agni*, *American Poetry*, *Fence*, *Ploughshares*, and others. She teaches at the Warren Wilson College MFA program for writers, Emerson College, and New School University, and she was a visiting professor at University of California, Irvine in 2001. AND...and this I think is the coolest, she is a founding editor of Four Ways Books, and independent literary press. (All you INDIE fans, take note, "indie" ain't just for radios.)

Now, I asked Martha some lame questions (ok, so I am not a reporter...but I am trying) about how she came into a career as a writer. She began in Jr. high writing poems for classes. She was encouraged and went on to study writing in college. She tried several ways of "being a writer" by working in advertising but she says she "hated that." She went on to work for a "large publisher" (as in NOT INDIE) and she "didn't like that." She taught poetry workshops in grad school; it was there that she decided to start a press because she "felt more poetry needed to be published." And she said (and I love her for this): "I just felt like doing it, and so I did." Thank you, Martha, you are an inspiration!

Because she's smart, she made a distinction right off the bat between writer (paid/career) and writer (accountant, CEO, barista etc.) She rightly notes, "One can be in the world and also be a writer." I want to thank her for that, too. "If one wants to write, write." When asked about her personal writing habits, she replied that she has learned to embrace her personal writing "temperament," "respect [her] 'silent times'," and that her writing flows irregularly because sometimes she doesn't "write for months. [She] work[s] on one poem at a time, or [she] work[s] on many." However, she advises new writers that they should try "working different muscles...to work with and against temperament."
Martha Rhodes will be around in English and writing classes over the next week to visit and give us some more of her excellent advice. She will also be giving a public reading next Thursday, Feb. 21st in the Events Barn at 8 pm If you want to read some her work, ask the nearest English Dept. prof, look on the back of the pink flier or go to http://www.poems.com/perferho.htm, http://www.publishingonline.com/en/spokenword/Rhodes_1.htm, http://www.publishingonline.com/en/spokenword/Rhodes_2.htm, or visit the website for her press www.fourwaybooks.com. Martha is frank, motivated, and, for what it's worth, I like her poems.

*quoted material from interview with Martha Rhodes, via e-mail. And biographical information provided by Martha Rhodes.

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Badass Movie Reviews: *Run Lola Run*

Tim Mudie '04 and the romantic side of being a badass

What the world needs now is love, sweet badass love; it's the only thing that there's just too little of. But not this week. No, this week we have *Run Lola Run*, a badass romance. In all fairness, this is not the kind of badass that I am used to and it probably isn't what you are used to either. Not only is this a romantic badass flick, it's German. And if there are two truths about Germans, it is that they love David Hasselhoff and that they are really really weird; I think it's the proximity to Amsterdam.

Run Lola Run is a very artistic film, probably part of expressionism or surrealism or some other art "ism." But, as far as I'm concerned, it is part of badassism and that is good enough for me. Lola's boyfriend, Manni, has lost one hundred thousand marks (I have no idea how much this is in American, but it's probably a lot) that he owes to a mob boss. Whoops! So now Lola has twenty minutes to come up with the money or else Manni will try robbing a store across the street from the payphone at which he is waiting. Now, twenty minutes doesn't make for a very long movie, so we get to see three possible scenarios as Lola, well, runs around trying to get the money and save her boyfriend. I can only hope that one day I have a girlfriend who will risk her life to get me one hundred thousand marks so I can pay off a mob boss. Now that's love; weird, German love, but love nonetheless.

MOVIES.YAHOO.COM

When even the nuns are badass, then you know you are dealing with some serious badassity.

Ok, so the whole point of the movie is that it's this discussion about these deep topics, mainly time. Minor changes at the beginning of Lola's dash for cash make for huge changes in the end, usually resulting in a whole bunch of death, robbery and car accidents. It's like the Third Reich of badass, which is way cooler than that other Reich.

The stories have a lot in common. In each of them, Lola goes to her father's office at the bank to try to get the money. For various reasons, her dad doesn't give her the money so she has to go through other routes. All the schemes are pretty badass, but most badass has to be the bank robbery. That's right. Lola robs a bank to get her mob-tied boyfriend money. Can't you just feel the love? Da.

Another particularly badass scene deals with Lola winning the money at a casino in two consecutive bets on roulette. How does she do this? By screaming, obviously. And let me tell you, she has some powerful lungs. When this girl screams things get broken, all sorts of things. Wicked realistic. Seriously, that sort of thing happens daily in Germany. Well, I've never been to Germany, but I imagine it happens. Anyway, it's badass so who cares?

The devil is in the details and so is the badass. *Run Lola Run* knows this and it, well, runs with it. When Lola bumps into a person, we see snapshots of his or her future. This is badass, but really weird; the first time it happened, I freaked out. But I calmed down quickly and was soon again entranced. Besides, one of the minor changes in the plot involves an ambulance driving through a sheet of glass being carried across the street. Unnecessary, but ridiculously badass. And sometimes the unnecessary badassness is the best kind. A friend of Lola's family gets into a car accident because of her and as he stares at the damaged car, three of the most über-badass dudes ever get out. Das badass.

German love is weird; *Run Lola Run* demonstrates that perfectly. Interlude scenes of Lola and Manni in bed discussing deep topics let you see their love. It's nice. It's not badass, but it's nice. Your chick will like it and that's a good thing.

The mix of art, love, badass and weird German stuff makes this a great Valentine's day movie. So sit back with your favorite "frau," have a pint of Heineken and watch *Run Lola Run*. Or at least have it on in the background while you're making out. That'll be a trip. This has been Badass Movie Reviews. Next week: *The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood*.

CHICAGO

from ***Chicago****, page 19*

lessly plays a sexy, manipulative showgirl who will stop at nothing to regain the spotlight. John C. Reilly did not receive a nomination, despite his excellent work and the fact that he is in practically ever Oscar-worthy film this year. Overall, while *Chicago* is lacking in the story department at times, it is highly entertaining and visually stimulating, worthy of its own nomination.

Although many people are inclined to compare *Chicago* with last year's breakthrough musical, *Moulin Rouge!*, doing this seems unfair to both films. There are major differences between the two, perhaps most prominently the fact that one is a story about crime and deceit in a corrupt American city, and the other is a story that stresses the opposing values of truth, freedom and love in a bohemian Paris. In addition, *Chicago* is an adaptation from a modern Broadway musical while *Moulin Rouge!* portrays an age-old story in a whole new, pop-culture way. In any case, people may agree or disagree on which they liked better, but one thing is certain... the musical is back and hopefully here to stay!

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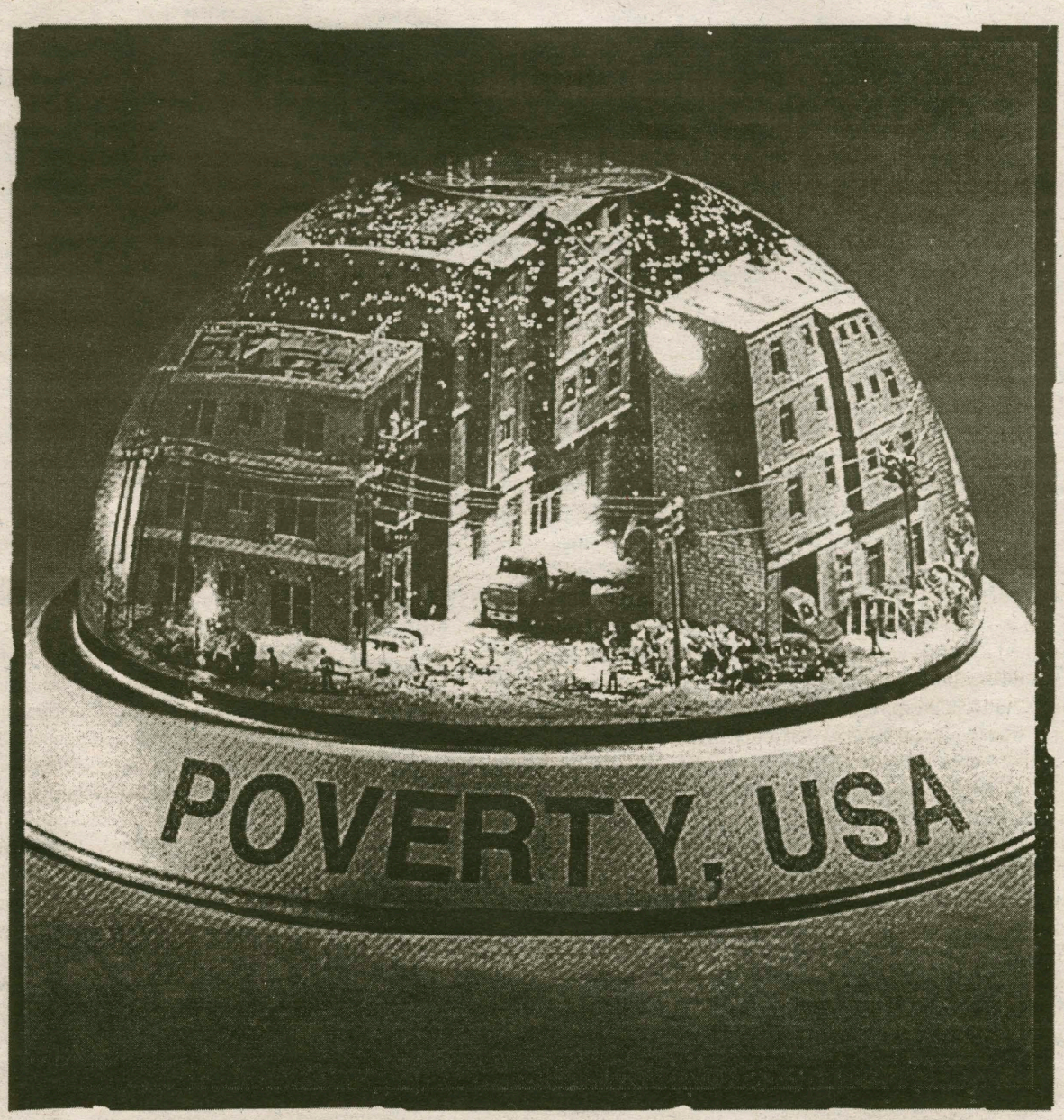

Women's basketball continues hot play

by Josh Sargen '05
Sports Editor

It keeps getting better and better. The Continentals continued their winning streak with wins over Middlebury and Skidmore. Despite the fact that Hamilton dropped a tough contest to league powerhouse Union, ending six games of undefeated basketball, the Continentals are storming towards the UCAA playoffs.

Hamilton visited Middlebury on the final leg of its six game road trip on February 4.

Middlebury's gym has been a house of horrors for the Continentals, who had not won there in almost a decade. During the first twenty minutes of play, it looked as if Hamilton's streak of futility would continue. The Panthers held a double-digit lead for most of the first half and led by sixteen at one point.

Hamilton managed to cut into the Middlebury lead at the end of the half and went into halftime down by nine. Getting the lead down to single digits was crucial for the Continentals, because mentally it is much easier to erase a single digit rather than a double-digit lead.

Coach Julie Diehl emphasized this point saying, "When you go into halftime down by single digits, it mentally helps the team say 'we played a horrible half, but lets dig it out and go from there.'"

The Continentals came out playing like a different team after halftime, outscoring Middlebury 38-24. Jessica Gorman'06 scored twelve points and hit three important three pointers, all coming in the second half, to lead Hamilton in scoring. Kim Beevers'06 also contributed all six of her points after halftime.

Point guard Larissa Hopkins'04 gave the team another offensive boost in the second half, scoring ten of her twelve points in the final twenty minutes. Hopkins must have been winded after the game, playing all forty minutes. The point guard helped get the team into a nice flow offensively, and Hamilton only committed ten turnovers. She has been vital to the team's success and her improved play has not gone unnoticed.

"We've been taking full use of Larissa," said Diehl. "She's done a nice job of breaking other team's presses with her speed. Her handle has improved so much since she got here."

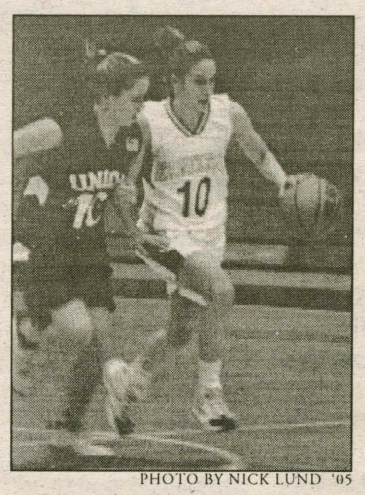

PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

Larissa Hopkins (10) drives to the hoop.

Three nights later, a rested Continentals squad finally had a chance to host an opponent. Skidmore visited Scott Field House and probably could have returned home after halftime.

Holding a twelve point lead going into the break, the Continentals dominated the first half of play, shooting 46% from the field while holding Skidmore to twenty points.

Hamilton maintained its lead in the second half with dominating rebounding. For the game, the Continentals held a 49-39 rebounding advantage and grabbed 20 offensive boards. Jen Munoz'04 and Holly Erick'04 led the way with seven and six rebounds respectively.

Offensively, Hamilton got production from a number of players. Tricia Czeski'05 led the way with twelve points, making five out of six free throws. Hopkins contributed with eleven points and Stephanie Dunn'03 dropped nine.

Unfortunately for Hamilton, Union visited the Field house twenty hours later bringing with it an impressive 16-1 record. This game was extremely important to the UCAA playoff picture, because Union sat in second place in the conference, one game ahead of the Continentals. Nevertheless, Hamilton came out lethargic in the first half, shooting a dismal 30%, and committing consistent defensive lapses.

Thanks to Missy Nelson's'05 offense, solid rebounding, and improved defensive play, Hamilton played an excellent second half, outscoring Union 37-36. Hamilton clawed within two points with approximately six minutes remaining in the game but then Union went on an 8-0 run, effectively sealing the game.

Despite the loss, there were numerous positives. Nelson had her best offensive night of the season, dropping twenty on 6/13 shooting. Munoz continued her solid play, falling one rebound shy of a double double. Hopkins once again played 39 super-human minutes, filling up the stat sheet with ten points, six steals, four assists, and three rebounds. And the Continentals, despite a terrible first half, almost pulled off a phenomenal comeback.

If Hamilton is going to knock off the Unions of the league, it needs to play two solid halves of basketball. Particularly on defense, the Continentals need more consistency. This improvement would lead to a more solid all-around game.

Nelson pointed out the importance of defensive consistency saying, "In both games [Middlebury and Union] we weren't playing very well in the first halves of those games. In the second half we focus on defense because once the defense improves, the offense will come."

The Continentals undoubtedly have the talent to beat Union and their upcoming opponent, St. Lawrence. They are playing excellent basketball at the most important time of the season. The key for Hamilton is to play that basketball for forty minutes.

Time for a change; let's rewrite Title IX

by Brett Zalaski '03
Sports Writer

(Ed. note: The following is Part I of a two part article. Part II will appear in the sports section next week.)

The Commission on Opportunity in Athletics, a diverse group of 15 men and women set up by President Bush, met for the final time on January 30th to vote for any revisions they deemed necessary for Title IX of the Educational Amendment of 1972. That amendment has had an immense impact on the gender equity in the NCAA.

In its biggest vote, the committee split 7-7 on changing a mandate of the law that stated that schools' gender participation in sports had to be the equivalent of the school's gender make-up. The change, had it been approved by a majority vote, would have called for a 50-50 split of male and female athletes at schools, with a margin of error of between two and three percentage points. One of the commission members failed to attend the vote. Her office said that she would have voted in favor of the change, The New York Times reported.

It is virtually impossible to argue that over the span of the past 31 years, any sport, athlete, or sports initiative has created as much success and growth as Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. This initiative, a landmark legislation that not only bans gender discrimination in college sports, but in academics as well, was a revolutionary concept in 1972. At the time, 30,000 female athletes were competing at the intercollegiate level and these athletes received only 2 percent of all athletic dollars, while 170,000 men were participating and receiving the other 98 percent.

The success of Title IX is statistically mind-blowing. In a survey done in 2000-2001, the NCAA found that over 150,000 women were competing at the intercollegiate level and in a 1999-2000 survey it was established that women's sports received 36 percent of the total athletic budget. That means participation in the past 31 years has risen by 411 percent and women's sports now receive hundreds of thousands of dollars more than when the amendment was first adopted.

The amendment called for a three-pronged system of gender equality that schools must attempt to adopt if they wanted to continue to receive government funding. Schools must show that their percentage of male and females participating in sports is roughly equivalent to the percentages of the school's overall population. The school must show that it is actively trying to expand its underrepresented gender in accordance with the first stipulation. Finally, if the school is not in compliance with the first two parts of the law, it must show that it is still, to a great extent, keeping the interests of the underrepresented sex fully accommodated. That's a mouthful.

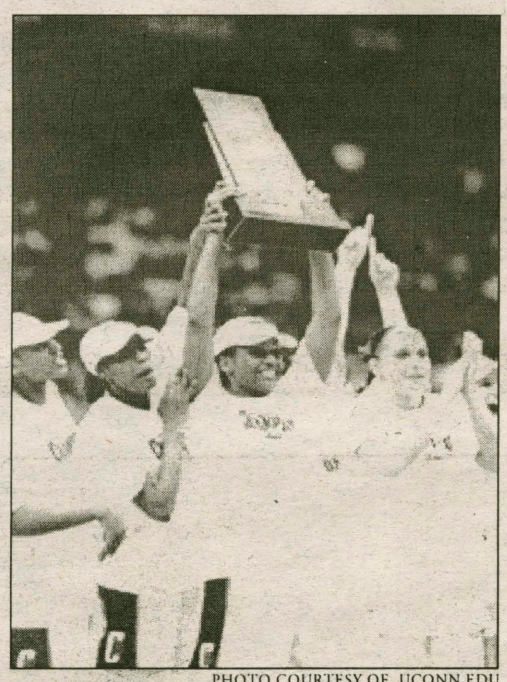

PHOTO COURTESY OF UCONN.EDU

UConn women have benefited tremendously from Title IX.

Despite the success, Title IX has received its share of criticism. Many schools, especially the larger state institutions, rely on federal aid to allow their athletic programs to compete on the NCAA's main stage. The limelight that these schools enjoy leads to increased national popularity and respect, increased athletic revenue and increased enrollment, which are three main ways in which a college gains a good reputation and makes money.

In attempts to bring their athletic programs into accordance with Title IX's three stipulations, many schools have decided to cut men's athletic programs to bridge the gap between the percentage of men and women competing at their institution. In a January 31st article written by New York Times sports writer Joe Drape, it was reported that since the passing of Title IX, about 170 wrestling programs, 80 men's tennis teams, 70 men's gymnastics programs, and 45 men's track teams have been eliminated from existence at their specific schools. In addition, a handful of successful baseball programs recently have been dropped, most notably at Iowa State and Providence.

The worst casualty of Title IX that I have read about occurred recently with the men's wrestling team at Marquette University. The school dropped its wrestling program, a team that used no money from the college's athletic budget, as it was completely funded by booster support, to try and attempt to show compliance with Title IX. Because of the problem at Marquette, and the incredible number of wrestling programs that have been cut since Title IX's inception, the National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA, January of 2002) filed a lawsuit claiming that Title IX was cutting men's programs solely for the purpose of creating women's programs, and that in itself, was discrimination.

By dropping the programs, the school has put its athletes in an awful position. They can leave the school and the life they have carved to pursue their athletic career, or stay and miss out on the possibility of continuing their athletic career on a higher level. That is a life-altering decision that I would not wish on anyone our age.

Because of the recent problems that program cuts have caused, President Bush assigned his commission to look at Title IX and decide what amendments, if any, should be made. The commission ended up making no major changes to the law itself.

Pitchers and catchers: report to active duty

by Michael Proia '05
Sports Editor

Major League Baseball pitchers and catchers begin reporting to spring training this week, and recently a friend of mine asked me if I am excited for the upcoming season. As Joe DiMaggio used to say of opening day, "you look forward to it like a birthday party when you're a kid. You think something wonderful is going to happen."

Growing up in Boston, the son of a Red Sox season ticket holder, I fell in love with the game of baseball at a young age. I have followed every Sox season as closely as possible for as long as I can remember, and I love the team to a fault. So here are my thoughts on the approaching season, and the story of my favorite team...

The year, like most, will begin with a lot of enthusiasm and excitement, with fans packing Fenway Park every game because "this year is the year."

Unfortunately for Sox fans, all-star Derek Lowe will get off to a slow start in April, in part due to the skin cancer surgery performed on him this off-season. Lowe is a confidence pitcher, and being overly self-conscious of some unsightly skin imperfections will not help him in that department. Once he gets off to a bad start, the fans will quickly forget about last season and start discussing his meltdown as a closer two years ago; he will be cooked like a Cajun chicken: "just set it and forget it."

Jason Varitek and Trot Nixon will have hot streaks around May, and the media will say they are "making the jump," but it won't happen, ever! Sox fans need to come to this realization sooner rather than later: Nixon and V-tek are mediocre, no matter how hard they try. Nixon will try changing his facial hair and hairstyles more times than Dennis Rodman, but it won't help...

As has been the case in recent years, the bullpen will inevitably blow some leads early on, and the coaching staff will feel that they need young-gun Casey Fossum in the bullpen more than in the starting rotation. As a result, Fossum will spend the year moving back and forth between the pen, starting rotation and the minors, bouncing around more than a pinball...

Frank Castillo, who gets hit more than Mike Tyson in his last fight against Lennox Lewis, will fill the opening in the rotation...

Johnny Damon will get off to a slow start, coming off a slow finish to last season, but he will heat up after the break, once the sox are out of contention, much like Albert Belle used to do for Baltimore...

The unparalleled Pedro Martinez, bigger and stronger than ever (haven't we heard that before?) will get hurt in June, hit the disabled list for fifteen days, come back strong, and shut it down in mid-September to give a rookie call-up a meaningless start as the Sox have faded from the race...

While I'm on the subject of injuries, Ramiro Mendoza, the defect from the "Evil Empire," will get hurt by July and will never pitch again for the Sox, much like Dustin Hermanson...

Nomar Garciaparra will continue to be "Nomah," swinging at anything the pitcher throws, refusing to take a walk. As the All-Star break approaches and the new ownership sits tight, Nomar will say that the ownership isn't doing enough to put together a championship club, and people will assume he wants out of Boston when he doesn't. And don't forget about the toll his "engagement" to Mia Hamm will have...

Manny Ramirez will surely show a complete lack of hustle during July, say he is not comfortable in the clubhouse and he misses Carlos Baerga, ask to be traded, then back off the issue when he gets pressured by his agent...

Shea Hillenbrand will tank and never, ever be an all-star again, nor should he be. He will start dating Tara Reid and she will ruin him in a similar fashion to that of Carson Daly and Tom Brady...

Off-season acquisitions Todd Walker and Jeremy Giambi will come in and pull a "Tony Clark" (don't you just love how you can use that term after the guy only played one year in Boston?). Naturally, the fans and media will call for a spanking for "Baby Theo" Epstein for signing the two, rather than a guy like Jeff Kent, who has joined a Houston Astros team that will finish in second place in their division. (If I go to Vegas, can I bet on Jimy Williams's team finishing second? The guy is the king of second place finishes, and I should be able to make money off it, right?)...

By now, the season is closing in on the trade deadline, and no doubt the Sox will be in second place in the AL East division and in the Wild Card race, so the media will be pushing for a trade to put this team over the top and into the playoffs. Epstein will abide, trading the one prospect left in the Sox minor league system for a middle of the pack player; I am betting Randy Winn (which reminds me, was Winn the first player in the modern era to be traded for a manager? Tampa Bay traded its one all-star for a guy who will never even take the field? And Bug Selig allowed this? Is he trying to contract Tampa Bay too but not going public with it?)...

Winn will be a bust in a Sox uniform, and Seattle will call up the former Sox prospect in September. By next August, this same kid who was traded for Randy "I hit .300 for the worst team in the league, so I made the all-star team by default" Winn will be starting for a playoff team, and playing well at that...

Manager Grady Little will come under heat around August as soon as the team gets swept in a four game series at home to the aforementioned Seattle Mariners. Grady will keep his job, mostly because the Sox cannot afford to keep changing managers...

Now the players will start to grumble about how Brain "Hot or Not" Daubach was their leader last year and they don't have one this year, and the media will once again attack Nomar for not stepping up in that role. Team veteran Tim Wakefield will take offense that the team doesn't consider him a leader...

Speaking of Wake, by late August he will be ticked off about something, probably being moved to the bullpen after losing six straight decisions, and the old man, John Burkett, will finally get his chance to be in the starting rotation. Burkett will be lit up like a Christmas tree repeatedly, and will retire in September. (At least his Sox career will have lasted longer than Gary "The Rat" Gaetti's)...

All this will be happening while the owners put adds up on the green monster and all over the walls to generate more "revenue," a.k.a. pocket money that they are not spending on marquee players...

What am I leaving out? Oh yeah, the previously mentioned "Evil Empire" that is the Yankees will trade for a hard-hitting outfielder...how about Sammy Sosa? Sosa will carry the Yanks through September and into the post-season where they will have to choose which four of seven starters to start games (assuming Big Stein hasn't traded Jeter and fired Torre by then. As Larry David, the voice of George Steinbrenner in *Seinfeld* put it, "Chaos does not work for the New York Yankees!")...

So there it is in a nutshell, another second-rate Sox season. Face it baseball fans: *TNT* may know drama, but the Sox know disappointment. Although, Cubs fans know it in a whole different way, but that is a different article for a different time.

All this having been written, of course I am excited about pitchers and catchers reporting next year. After all, "this year is the year."

My feelings for the upcoming season are best summed up by Rogers Hornsby when he said, "People ask me what I do in the winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring."

Athlete of the Week: Amanda Chase '03

by Paul P. Jones '03
Sports Writer

This week's Spectator Athlete of the Week is track star Amanda Chase. She narrowly edged out Basketball stars Greg Leone'04 and Kevin Yanni'03. This strange bird from the barren land of Lyon Mountain, NY, is currently ranked 7th in the nation in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:16.72.

Name: Amanda Chase '03
Hometown: Lyon Mountain, NY, across from the Lyon Mountain Correctional Facility
High School: Northern Adirondack Central School
Lyon Mountain, what is it like: Small town of about 500, approximately 30 miles outside of Plattsburgh. We have a gas station, a prison, a post office, a church, and a bar.
Athletic Accolades: Captain of the famous Thundercats IM Basketball Team, Track Captain, Member of 2002 Distance Medley Relay (DMR) Team with third fastest time in the nation. Collegiate state record in the 800, 2002 outdoor track national qualifier 800m, and owner of 8 school records.

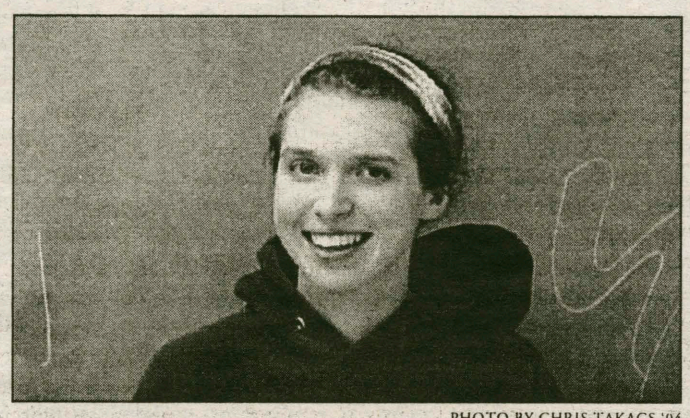

PHOTO BY CHRIS TAKACS '04

Chase currently ranks 7th nationally in the 800m.

What do you enjoy most about running: Being healthy, winning, and my teammates, especially the freshmen football players on the team.
Goals for the season: Go to nationals in the 800m and become an All-American. I would also like our DMR team to qualify provisionally.
Favorite athletics memory at Hamilton: That would either be qualifying for nationals last year in the DMR or getting to run around the Men's Basketball Team everyday in practice.
What are your Valentine's Day plans: Stuffing mailboxes with Valentines, giving out sweets (baked goods) to my sweets, and going to bed early for UCAAs.
What would your ideal Hamilton Valentine's Day be: A double date with Charles Spiliotis '03 and Jason Cervitti '06. We would warm up with a 5 mile run, followed by dinner at the Hook Line and Sinker, some 80s dancing, a back massage, some making out, and a good night's sleep.
What did you do on your snow day: Played cards with Big Drew, Little Guastella, and Alex Drexi; worked on my Valentines; slept; ate; baked; and did not shower.
If you could be anyone for a day who would you be: My cat Norman.
Who wins in a fight, a Bald Eagle or a Dolphin: Paul, I think that is a really stupid question. I think my cat would kick both their asses.
About how much water do you drink in an average day: At least 2 gallons.
Favorite flower: Take note, Chuck and Jason; Daisies, Daffodils or Tulips.
Favorite place in the world: My house, on the couch on Sunday afternoons, when my dad is cooking turkey, stuffing, and mashed potatoes.
Favorite place at Hamilton: In the equipment room, whenever you are not hanging around there.
No love for me these days, huh, Chase, not even on Valentine's Day? Shame on you.

Sports

Men's basketball racking up the wins

by James Robbins '05
Sports Writer

This past weekend proved successful for the men's basketball team with victories over Union and Skidmore, and the naming of Greg Leone '04 and Kevin Yanni '03 as the UCAA co-guards of the week. Coming out of the weekend atop the UCAA standings, the Continentals met their match against Hobart College, losing in double overtime.

Friday evening, Hamilton took on Skidmore in the Scott Field House, winning 81-70. Skidmore entered the game with a record of ten wins and six losses, while Hamilton offered a record of thirteem wins and three losses. The first half proved to be a close one with Hamilton barely squeaking by with a 40 to 37 advantage. The second half, while well played by both squads, was not as close, with Hamilton putting up 41 points to Skidmore's 33 points.

The game was close from start to finish, with Hamilton shooting 47.5 percent for the game to Skidmore's 43.9 percent. Some might cite foul trouble as the bane of Skidmore's performance. Skidmore sent Hamilton to the free-throw line sixteen times to Skidmore's five. Fortunately for Hamilton, the players were successful on 80 percent of their attempts.

In addition to an overall greater success as a team, Skidmore faced difficulties from many Hamilton players. Yanni was Hamilton's leading scorer of the night, with twenty-one points, all from behind the three point line. He was followed by Leone and Joe Smith '04, who each put up seventeen points. Leone, Smith, and Joe Finley '03 all had five assists. Hamilton faced its greatest threat from Skidmore's Dana Martin and Lucas Martin, who put up twenty and fourteen points, respectively. Hamilton entered Saturday's match against Union riding a five game win streak. Unlike the previous night, The Conts clearly had the victory from the outset. Hamilton dominated the first half with a score of 46 to 24. The second half was not much better for Union, as the game ended with Hamilton at 85 to Skidmore's 58.

Hamilton again had a great showing from all of its starters. Leone led the game with twenty-eight points. He was followed by Yanni and Smith, who put up twenty-four and nineteen points respectively. Hamilton's biggest threat came from John Cagianello of Union, who put up twenty-nine points. Additionally, Hamilton's success can be partially attributed to its work on the boards, pulling down twenty-nine offensive rebounds and twenty-five defensive rebounds.

Special note must be made of Leone and Yanni, who were honored by the UCAA as co-guards of the week. Yanni averaged 22.5 points per game last week, in addition to tying a Hamilton record for most three-pointers in a game, as he netted eight against Union. Leone also averaged 22.5 points per game, in addition to scoring a career high 28 points against Union.

On Tuesday, Hamilton was not able to keep its six-game winning streak alive. The men took on Hobart College (9-11) in Geneva, NY. Hobart took the first half with a score of 47-33. However, Hamilton came back to tie the game at 82 at the end of regulation.

The first overtime was hard-fought, as Hobart maintained a three point lead, when, with seven seconds left, Staunton Peck '05 put up a three pointer to tie the game at 94. Hamilton began the second overtime with a three-point advantage, but Hobart took a two point lead with 15 seconds left as a result of a free throw. Unfortunately, Hamilton's final efforts were not enough, leaving Hobart with a 103-101 victory.

The Continentals have a busy weekend ahead of them with a game Friday against St. Lawrence, and a game Saturday against Clarkson. They will attempt in their efforts to maintain their number one seat atop the UCAA standings.

Swimming finishes strong

by Paul Kibbe '05
Sports Writer

The men and women's swimming and diving team wrapped up the 2002-2003 season in the best way possible. Both the men and the women won their meets this past weekend making it so both teams ended the season on three meet winning streaks heading into the NESCAC Championships at the end of this month. If the swimmers are successful there, they will travel to Emory College for the NCAA Championships on March 20th.

Going into the post season, Coach Davis said, "Certainly momentum plays a critical role in our NESCAC preparation. I think we are in a good place right now physically and mentally. We have experienced success in the last five weeks and that success we know will be eclipsed by what we're capable of accomplishing at the NESCAC championships."

Both teams hosted LeMoyne College on February 7th in the Bristol Pool. The men swam a very strong meet, beating the team from LeMoyne 170-87. The women also had an outstanding performance against LeMoyne's women, outscoring them, 150-119.

Saturday afternoon the swimmers and divers traveled to Troy, NY to finish up their regular season against a strong team from RPI. The women from Hamilton outscored the RPI women by 45 points defeating them 137-92. The men from Hamilton did not have quite as large a margin of victory as the Hamilton women but still managed to edge the RPI men by 38.5 points, 138.5-100. Both the men's and women's teams are looking for people to shine in the championships.

Coach Davis said, "There are always surprises and some people that are really going to bust out at NESCACs are Aletha Asay '05 in the IM events, Kevin Thompson '04 has been saving his best for last, Tae Chung '03 will emerge as a huge performer and Maria Choi should turn some heads at the championships."

Both the men and the women now have a few weeks off in order to rest up and prepare for what will be their biggest meet of the year, the NESCAC Championships which will be held February 28th. The men from Hamilton will travel to Williams College to compete and just when you thought it couldn't get any colder, the women will have to travel north to Bowdoin College for their meet. Both teams are very confident going into the championships, which should help them be successful.

"I expect all of our athletes to have fun - #1 and foremost," said Davis. "We'll compete with pride, we'll swim hard and we'll dive with intensity. I know that our competitive spirit will make us a great team at NESCACs and I feel like if we do a great job of staying focused and keeping everything in perspective, we'll be a happy group. I think we have lofty goals and serious expectations that we'll achieve. I feel really confident that this group will walk away from this meet with a great deal of pride. Expectations? Excellence! We're capable of great things and I know we'll be great."

Men's hockey splits pair

by Charles Spiliotis '03
Senior Editor

The Hamilton men's hockey team came into last weekend's NESCAC contests with a must-win attitude. After losing four in a row and five of its last six, the Conti
entals were desperate for a win. But with national #3 Middlebury College coming into town on Friday and a scrappy Williams club following them, there could be no walkthroughs for the Conts. As it turned out, the home team would have to settle for a hard-fought split, with the league-leading Panthers being a bit too much.

Goaltender Gabe Tash '06 commented, "We were finally fed up with losing. The team played well Friday night, but I didn't." He went on, "Things finally came together on Saturday for the win; it just clicked at the right time."

The Continentals Saturday affair with Williams was an evenly matched, hard fought battle that went down to the very last second. After falling behind 1-0 at the 5:08 mark of the second period, Hamilton responded with a pair of scores from Matt Harrison '03 and Craig Kennedy '05, respectively, within twelve seconds of each other. But battling the Hamilton momentum, the Ephs managed to register the equalizer before second intermission.

After plenty of opportunities for the Continentals early in the third, it was the visiting Purple Cows that netted the go-ahead goal halfway through the final frame. Down but not out, the Conts showed plenty of heart and mounted a comeback. Ryan Kitson '04 banged a rebound from Tom Ditzer '04 and Ryan Bailey '03 at the 14:01 mark to tie it up, and Harrison followed with the eventual game winner, as the puck deflected in front of the net and he deposited it past goaltender Mike Aroesty. Despite Williams' best efforts, including a six-on-four situation as time expired, the Conts tallied their first win in over two weeks.

PHOTO BY NICK LUND '05

Jeff Vatour (14) skates the puck into the offense zone.

Kennedy said, "For the five games before Williams, we didn't play very well at all. We didn't do all the little stuff that we needed to do." He continued, "In the Williams game, we did that little stuff, and we got the win."

The Middlebury game was a very different story. Despite Hamilton's best efforts to come out of the gates quickly, Middlebury was just too much. The Panthers scored the game's first four goals, including one in the first and three in the first seven minutes of the second period. A late Hamilton push in the second that included a pair of goals by Kevin Audit '03 brought the Continentals to 5-3, but that was as close as they would come. Middlebury scored two more in the third and the NESCAC's best secured a 7-4 road win.

Now standing at 11-8-1, Hamilton will travel to Tufts on Friday and Connecticut College on Saturday for its final road weekend of the season. A pair of wins over these sub .500 teams would be a big confidence boost for the Continentals, not to mention a boost in the league standings.

"We have to take it one game at a time," said Tash. "We just have to look at each game individually , not look at it as four in a row."

Kennedy added, "Our biggest focus is to play a 60 minute game. We have to be consistent in what we do. We have to carry that momentum and consistency into the playoffs."

Don't forget: Guy Herbert '89 will have his jersey retired next Saturday, February 22, in Sage Rink. There will be an autograph session from 1-2 p.m. in the Field House lobby. The pregame ceremony will take place at 2:30 p.m. so don't miss it.